

From gas bills to NHS waiting lists

# Broad sweep to value-for-money citizen's charter

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major launched his citizen's charter yesterday and vowed to increase quality and value for money throughout the public services.

The prime minister promised a comprehensive package of improvements that included guaranteed waiting times for operations, fixed appointment times for the gas man to call, and refunds for season ticket holders if British Rail fails to run its trains on time.

The charter says that league tables will be published to show the comparative performance of councils, schools, health authorities and hospitals. It promises the wider implementation of performance-related pay, more contracting out of council services and tougher monitoring of the police.

MPs were surprised by both the range and detail of the charter. It says that detailed privatisation proposals for British Rail will be published later this year and introduces steps to chip away at the Post Office's monopoly on letter post. The present £1 limit for



other carriers to deliver letters will be cut to "a level much nearer the first-class stamp". One surprise element of the document is the decision to let individuals have the right to seek injunctions to stop unlawful industrial action in the public sector.

The remarkable range of proposals, in which Mr Major has invested considerable personal political capital, was still being dissected at Westminster last night. Neil Kinnock dismissed the document as "very unconvincing, ineffectual, vague and damaging". Conservative MPs hoped, however, that if the government delivers the better service it has promised, the changes will produce a significant electoral dividend.

Ministers, already buoyed up by better trade figures and indications that the recession might have bottomed out, believed that the document would expose Labour's difficulties with the trade unions, which are likely to oppose a number of the provisions.

No timetable has yet been clearly defined, however, for the implementation of the charter's provisions. Mr Major could not say last night whether the legislation would be introduced in a single bill or filtered through with individual departmental bills.

The charter's health provisions include a maximum waiting time for National Health Service treatment. If a hospital cannot meet the target, the local health authority will have to pay for surgery to be carried out in a private hospital. Fixed appointment times will also be introduced for outpatients.

Schools will have to produce reports on each pupil's progress at least once a year, as well as a list of their examination results and truancy rates. The charter says that league tables will be published so that parents can compare the performance of schools and sixth form colleges.

The government proposes to end British Rail's monopoly and to appoint an independent regulator to ensure fair competition. BR will look at ways of giving season ticket holders discounts on renewal where services have fallen below standard. The charter says that on the Underground and railways, for example, "records of punctuality and absenteeism should be taken into account in setting the pay of drivers, guards, signalling staff and others". The government also intends to extend the "lane rental" system on the roads, penalising contractors for slow work.

A bill will be introduced to give the Audit Commission powers to compare councils' performance, so that taxpayers can judge how their money is spent. Council tenants' rights to repairs will be strengthened and some housing management will be contracted out.

Another bill will be presented to set up regulatory bodies for the big utilities, such as water, gas and electricity, to ensure that all standards meet the highest level. Francis Maude, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who has co-ordinated the charter package, said yesterday that it should mean an end to people waiting in all day for the electricity man to call.

However, Gordon Brown, the shadow industry secretary, said the charter's original proposals on utility regulation had been watered down. He accused the government of "hypocrisy" for bringing in more performance-related pay in the public sector but doing nothing about performance in private industry.

Reports and analysis, page 7  
Leading article, page 15



Anyone for tennis: the Soviet women's tennis team wearing traditional Latvian dress at the opening ceremony of the 29th Women's Federation Tennis Cup in Nottingham, which was attended by the Princess of Wales. An annual competition is held for the team with the most attractive national costume. The winner will be announced tomorrow. These costumes, traditionally worn by locals, were brought to Britain by Larisa Savchenko, a Latvian team member, and designed by Bruno Sirmanis, whose company makes them.

## Major writes to civil servants

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE prime minister yesterday took the unprecedented step of writing to every civil servant in Britain setting out the overall thrust of the citizen's charter. Letters to all 550,000 people employed directly by the government - but not to employees of corporations such as the Post Office or British Rail - were being dispatched yesterday following his Commons statement.

The text of Mr Major's letter is: "By now you will have seen that I have published the Government's Citizen's Charter programme. No Government anywhere has ever set out such a thorough programme for improving the quality of public service."

The individual users and the taxpayers who pay for them deserve high quality services. And I know you want to supply them. Where there is no choice, and a citizen cannot go elsewhere when services fall below standard, it is more, not less important that the standard of service is high. Those who provide public services therefore have a special duty to respond to the needs of their customers and clients.

Delivering this higher quality. Continued on page 20, col 1

## 'Nothing to be held back' from enquiry into BCCI

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday pledged that nothing would be held back and no one prevented from giving evidence to the enquiry into the supervision of failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

John Major and Neil Kinnock clashed in the Commons as the prime minister announced the terms of reference for the enquiry which will be conducted by Lord Justice Bingham, a Lord of Appeal, who led the enquiry into Rhodesian fuel sanctions busting in 1977.

Mr Major came to the Commons as a High Court application by the Bank of England to have BCCI wound up was adjourned for eight days to allow the Bank and BCCI's biggest shareholder, the government of Abu Dhabi, to discuss an interim compensation scheme to help thousands of small depositors.

During the hearing it was claimed that the banking group may never have made a profit in its 19-year history and that it had covered up its losses with fraud on an "ever increasing scale".

The prime minister told a crowded chamber that he, other ministers, officials and members of the security services would be available to give evidence to the official enquiry. Its terms of reference are "to enquire into the supervision of BCCI under the banking acts; to consider whether the action taken by all the UK authorities was appropriate and timely; and to make recommendations". It will be held in private but Mr Major, who insisted he had not seen or had knowledge of auditors' reports on BCCI until June 28, promised that its conclusions would be made public.

Answering an emergency question from the Labour leader, the prime minister made little effort to conceal his anger that the collapse of BCCI had overshadowed the final days of last week's G7 summit and the launch of his citizen's charter which he sees as a key part of the Tories' appeal at the next general election.

In the angriest exchanges between the two men since he became prime minister, Mr Major accused the Labour leader of muckraking. Last night Mr Kinnock said the prime minister had discredited himself by using the term muckraking in reply to questions about malpractices which had had a devastating effect on the lives of many people.

Earlier in the Commons, Mr Kinnock demanded to know when the prime minister and other ministers knew of irregularities, fraud and allegations that BCCI was being used for the laundering of criminals' money and the funding of terrorists. To Labour calls for Mr Major to resign, Mr Kinnock said the prime minister was ultimately responsible for BCCI and the government could not shift the blame onto officials or the Bank of England. The prime minister sought to limit the potential political damage caused by the BCCI collapse by promising that his government would co-operate fully with the enquiry. He said Lord Justice Bingham would have "access to all relevant papers and officials and ministers. Nothing and no one will be held back". He would be prepared to give evidence and, after allegations that the security services had warned of terrorist links with BCCI, Continued on page 20, col 4

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Liquidators' report, page 21

Settlers' fear, page 10

## Rise in sales boosts hopes of recovery

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN received its best economic news for over a year yesterday, a sharp rise in retail sales and a big improvement in June's balance of payments. The figures, far better than expected, provided the clearest evidence to date that the economy is beginning to pull out of recession.

Although government officials refused to go beyond the Chancellor's forecast that a recovery would begin before the end of the year, they privately expressed delight at the figures.

Politically, the good news could not have come at a better time to reinforce the good impression created by the London economic summit, the improvement in consumer confidence and the tentative political swing back towards the government in the

opinion polls. The 1.3 per cent advance in retail sales volumes was particularly significant because the Treasury has said an increase in consumer spending would be the key catalyst for economic recovery. The increase in high street sales showed consumers were finally regaining their confidence after the series of mortgage rate cuts which began in February.

The trade figures suggested that British exporters remained internationally competitive despite the strength of the pound in the European exchange rate mechanism. If so, then Britain's future growth might not be as tightly constrained by balance of payments problems as many economists had thought.

Treasury hopes, page 21



## 'Dangerous' inmate escapes from jail

By PETER VICTOR

PRISON security was criticised yesterday after a "very dangerous" inmate escaped from a high-security jail 24 hours after James Saunders, a child rapist, broke out of Broadmoor.

Vincent Brown, serving 15 years for armed robbery, forced his way on to the roof of Armley jail, Leeds, early yesterday before scaling the perimeter wall. He was with two other prisoners who gave themselves up.

The Prison Officers' Association said the three men shared a cell despite their involvement in a serious disturbance at another prison. POA officials at Broadmoor - where Saunders, known as "the wolf man", was held - said security had been undermined by attempts to improve inmates' rehabilitation chances. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced an inquiry into Saunders' escape.

Security doubts, page 20

## Summer tales of lust to set before the Queen

By ROBIN YOUNG

HER Majesty is in for a shock. Some soft pornography has been packed for the royal family's summer holiday reading. The Book Trust's annual gift of books for Balmoral includes Jilly Cooper's *Polo*, a tale of lust which only just stops short of frightening the horses, and Josephine Hart's even more explicit *Damage*, which details sado-masochistic adultery.

The inclusion of Prince Edward in another of the books, *Mostly Men* by Lynn Barber, makes it another surprising selection. The book, a collection of Miss Barber's interviews, includes one she had with the prince in 1987. She wrote that though usually charming, he soured at difficult questions.

She also reflected somewhat acerbically on other royal relations, suggesting that the Princess of Wales's

stepmother was a transparent snob. Who among the royals will want to be the first to read *Tyrant or Victim?* A *History of the British Governors*, by Alice Reston, the wife of the arts minister. Somebody should cast an eye over it, perhaps, to ensure that it is fit to pass on to nannies in attendance on the royal juniors. The latter, though, should be kept reasonably amused with Roald Dahl's *The Vicar of Nibbleswicke*, *Farm Animals*, by the Duchess of Devonshire, and *Silver Jackanory*, quarter of a century's worth of the television storytelling programme.

Could it have been impertinently surmised that Prince Charles might be interested by Angela Huth's *Invitation to the Married Life*, which concerns matrimonial problems and the mid-life crisis? *The America's Cup*, a collection of photographs of racing yachts, is evidently intended for Prince Philip.

Angela Carter's *Wise Children*, about a theatrical family, may have been included with Prince Edward in mind.

The Duchess of York, perhaps, will be first to pick up *A Traveller's Alphabet*, by Sir Stephen Runciman. Her husband may appreciate *The Nutmeg of Consolation* by Patrick O'Brian, a swashbuckling navy adventure set during the Napoleonic wars.

John le Carré is a confirmed favourite of the Queen Mother, so she will probably devour *The Secret Pilgrim* before taking up *Salmon and Women: The Feminine Angle* by Wilma Paterson and Peter Behan.

The Queen's private secretary did let the Book Trust know that they would like the choices to include more novels. This year's list may gratify royal predilections better than ever.

## Israel takes steps towards peace

From RICHARD BEESTON, IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday took a first tentative step towards accepting an American peace initiative for the Middle East, when Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, told headline cabinet colleagues that the Arab states, including Syria, its arch-rival, were prepared to talk peace.

Mr Shamir's briefing followed two rounds of talks with James Baker, the American Secretary of State, who left Tel Aviv yesterday in optimistic mood, predicting that Israel would change its position after all and join his proposed regional peace conference. "I think this is a moment of historic opportunity," Mr Baker said in an apparent appeal to the Israeli public. "For 43 years, Israel has sought direct negotiations with its neighbours and it has been right to do so."

"Now there is a real opportunity to get those face-to-face negotiations. Israel now has Arab partners willing to engage in direct negotiations," he said, adding that he looked forward to Israel's reply shortly.

It is expected that Mr Shamir's right-wing coalition government will agree to drop its procedural objections to attending the talks and a positive reply will be sent to Washington before, or during, the superpower summit in Moscow next week. It is possible that a conference attended by Israel, its Arab neighbours, the two superpowers, as well as European Community and United Nations observers, could be convened probably in Cairo or Washington in early October.

However, Washington's diplomatic work is not over and when Mr Baker departed for the Asean (Association of South East Asian Nations) conference in Kuala Lumpur, he left behind officials to help coax Israel into the final stages of acceptance.

Of particular concern to the Israelis is the unresolved problem of who will represent the Palestinians, the issue which torpedoed Mr Baker's peace initiative last year. Israel insists on the right to veto any Palestinians who are either members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, or who do not live in the occupied territories.

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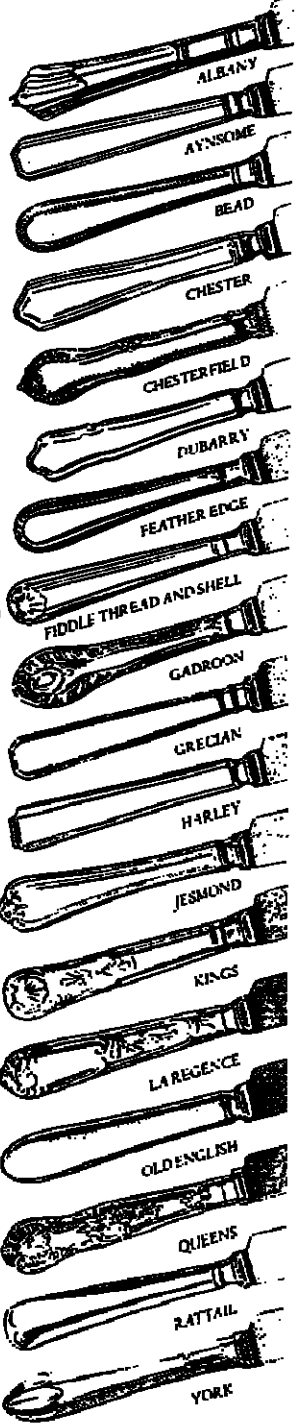
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## TODAY IN THE TIMES

### LAW TIMES

Anthony Scrivener says the pressure on High Court judges risks turning a rare breed into an extinct species Page 27

### HIGH AND MIGHTY

Couture is as haute as ever at the Paris shows. Silly sometimes, not widely worn, but still a distinctive cut above, reports Liz Smith Page 12

### THAT TAX

Which council tax band would Pooter's house be in? Several million such questions amount to a government nightmare, says Tony Travers Page 14

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Gavril Popov, the mayor of Moscow - not prone to alarmism - says a chaotic harvest and food shortages could lead to "fascist dictatorship" Page 11

### TEST RECALL

High Morris, the Glamorgan batsman, has been called into England's party for the fourth Test match against West Indies at Edgbaston. He is likely to replace Robin Smith, who has a finger injury Page 36

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Polo: a tale likely to frighten the horses



# Judge grants BCCI sheikh eight days to start rescue

**By DAVID YOUNG**

**Sit-down protest: victims of the BCCI affair make their views known yesterday outside the law courts**

In response, David Johnson, QC, warned the court that Sheikh Zayed would not help BCCI's depositors if BCCI was wound up. "If it is ordered, given, that the majority shareholders would have no interest in preserving the value of the group," he said. The Abu Dhabi authorities were negotiating with Brian Smouha, BCCI administrator from Touche Ross, about a partial rescue of the bank.

"It is not alleged that these frauds are continuing," Mr Johnson said. "The majority shareholders remain shocked by the abrupt action taken by the Bank of England."

**Winding-up petition, page 21**

**THE RAG TRADE**  
**£2 an hour**  
**Asians**  
**count the**  
**high cost**

**By TIM JONES**

would effect the employment prospects of thousands of people who work for low wages in sweat shops.

**Winding-up petition, page 21**  
**Liquidators' report, page 21**

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## MAN IN THE NEWS

## Radical brings old-fashioned courtesy without trimmings

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT



**Bingham: broke rank with judiciary on reform**



## Bingham: broke rank with judiciary on reform

## STORNOWAY ENQUIRY

## Scrutiny begins on £23m loss

**By KERRY GILL**

The first part of the investigation, conducted by Alan Alexander in a sound proofed room, is expected to be completed within six weeks. Professor Alexander, aged 47, of Strathclyde university's business school, said one of his jobs would be to look into the council's practice in dealing with brokers to invest or borrow money. The second stage of his remit would be to make recommendations on the council's procedures and policies.

"I hope that my appointment will reassure staff and encourage them to continue their excellent work in providing public service to the people of the Western Isles."

His remit was to examine the circumstances of the crisis, to report and to make recommendations. "It is important therefore that my enquiry be conducted with confidence, thoroughness and with all deliberate speed. That implies that certain pre-conditions have to be met before the enquiry can proceed," he said.

Professor Alexander, who

public comment during his investigation. Once the enquiry was completed it would be up to the council to decide on any publicity, he said. He expected that his report would become a public document.

Professor Alexander said that the council had soundproofed his room in the council headquarters after he had asked it for secure accommodation.

Donald Macleod, the finance director, left for a holiday in France last week after having his suspension lifted but is expected back tomorrow.

**King acts on  
backbench  
fears over  
army cuts**

**By MICHAEL EVANS**  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

He said that the high street chain stores were largely responsible for the plight of men and women in the sweat

## King acts on backbench fears over army cuts

## BBC TV switches on stereo

Television sets able to receive Nicam can reproduce digital stereo sound almost as perfect as a compact disc player, BBC said yesterday.

**Census shortfall**  
One in every 150 citizens

failed to return the census form, Peter Wormald, the Registrar-general, said yesterday. As a result, up to a million people are not included in the first count of the 1991 census in England and Wales, published today. The problem was particularly acute in the inner cities.

## Strangler jailed

Central Criminal Court yesterday. George Wyatt, aged 31, had been found guilty of murder, attempted murder, burglary and indecent assault. The Recorder of London, Judge Verney, told him: "You have been convicted of horrifying offences on two young boys who were utterly defenceless."

## Faster freight

preparations for the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993 and to encourage industry to switch from road to rail. Times between Glasgow and Paris, for example, will be cut from 116 to 28 hours; Ipswich-Milan will fall from 125 to 40 hours, and Manchester-Dijon from 114 to 26 hours.

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## Sir Geoffrey: modicum of flexibility urged



# Death crash pilot 'went on Falklands flight run'

By CRAIG SETON

PASSENGERS in a civilian helicopter were told they were going on a "Falklands run" by a former military pilot, who then showed off his skills by hedge-hopping at speeds of up to 200mph before crashing into electricity cables, killing two businessmen, Stafford Crown Court was told yesterday.

The court heard that John Wright told passengers he had flown for the army in the Falklands and the Middle East, and there were references to "Argies" popping up from behind rocks as he flew the helicopter only 30ft from the ground, when it should have been at several hundred feet.

Mr Wright, aged 42, of Clehonger, Hereford and Worcester, pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of Richard Smith, aged 37, a Surrey businessman, and Chris Durrant, aged 41, as a result of the helicopter crash last June. He also denied two charges of endangering the aircraft by recklessness.

Rex Todd, for the prosecution, said that the Agusta 109 helicopter, owned by JCB, the earth-moving equipment company, was being brought in to land at the firm's factory near Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, when its tail clipped electricity power lines 27ft from the ground and crashed. The aircraft had been in good mechanical order.

He said Mr Wright was showing off his skills. He added: "It happened simply from his recklessness in flying in the manner he was. It (the helicopter) appears to have been taking part in the simulation of some form of military manoeuvre. The helicopter was hedge-hopping and had to

rise up and go down very fast simply to clear the hedgerows and trees."

John Durrant, from Aldershot, Hampshire, the brother and business partner of one of the dead men, said that he had been a passenger on the helicopter and at one stage had been frightened out of his wits. The court heard the trip had been organised as a treat for good customers of JCB.

Mr Durrant said that Mr Wright took the helicopter from about 1,000ft to below tree-top level and began to weave in and out of the trees, banking up to almost 90 degrees on either side. He said: "He told us that when he had to fly in the Falklands, it was below 20ft, otherwise the Argentinian radar would pick you up and an Argie would pop up from behind a rock."

Mr Durrant, who suffered fractures to his spine and ribs, said he knew there was to be a demonstration of low flying, but had not realised what it would entail.

Kenneth Lyburn, a civil engineer, who also survived the crash, said the passengers were told they would be going on a "Falklands run". When the pilot was banking the helicopter "there was a reference to looking for snipers in the trees".

A third passenger, Arthur Leitch, a sales engineer, told the court: "The helicopter went into a horrendous nosedive and I was disorientated and being slewed about from side to side. The pilot said something like 'when you're attacking tanks', or words to that effect. This was when we were slewing around at the bottom." The trial continues today.



Clearing up: rail workers remove wreckage from Sunday night's collision. Four people died and 22 were injured on the stretch of single track

## Damaged points found at Glasgow rail crash

By KERRY GILL

THE Glasgow rail accident in which four people died, the second involving a single track line within the city in just over two years, may have been caused either by human error or a signalling failure, it emerged yesterday.

As British Rail began an investigation into the collision between two suburban electric trains on Sunday night and Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman, visited the scene outside Newton station on the

city outskirts, it was also disclosed that a set of points had been damaged before the crash, although vandalism was not thought to be the cause. The government also announced a public enquiry.

Scottish Rail officials confirmed yesterday that a train passed a red signal two weeks ago on the same stretch of line, though no accident occurred. British Rail could offer no explanation of how the two trains, one bound for Glasgow

and the other for Motherwell, came to be on the 200-yard stretch of single track at the same time. Four people were killed and 22 injured.

The single track stretch, completed only last month after a £5 million modernisation, is for local commuter trains. The crash bore similarities to one on a single track line in March 1989, close to Bellgrove station in Glasgow.

But Sir Bob said: "Single track is not a problem. We use single track all over the country, and that is not the issue. The issue is how signalling works, and how the train works. Single track is not dangerous. We have used it for 150 years. Properly signalled, there is not a problem; what we need to do now is examine exactly what happened here."

"Any time there is an accident on British Rail people will say cost is being put before safety, but that is not the case and will not be the case. We will operate with

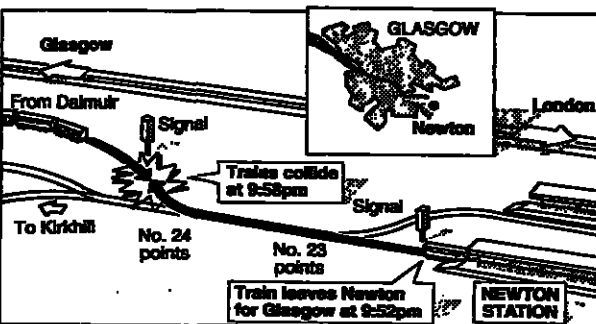
first-class facilities. There is no reason why this accident should have happened, and that is what we have to find out."

BR, he said, carried a million people a year and its safety record compared well with other countries.

"There have been accidents. Any accident is bad, but there has not been a spate of accidents when you look at the movements we have every day and the number of people. The accident record is good, and what we want to do is make it perfect." He declined to comment on the significance of the damaged points.

Three of those killed were named as David Scott, aged 27, of Glasgow, Kenneth Meechan, aged 20, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, and Tracey Donachie, aged 18, of Shotts, Lanarkshire. Mr Scott is thought to have been the driver of the Balloch to Motherwell train. The other two were passengers.

A survivor of the crash said that the driver of the train



## Systems aim is to halt human error

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NEW technology will all but eliminate the scope for human error on the national rail network, although it could take up to a decade to introduce, British Rail said yesterday.

Accident investigators will be unable to establish whether the new technology could have averted yesterday's rail crash near Glasgow until the cause has been identified. Nevertheless, it could assist them during investigations into future rail accidents.

BR is introducing two distinct technologies: automatic train protection (ATP), which is designed to prevent drivers passing signals at danger or breaking speed limits; and black box data recorders, which will be able to monitor a range of train functions from door operation to the power generated by traction systems.

Automatic train protection is expected to bring about the most significant transformation in railway safety since the nationalisation of the network in 1948. In contrast to the present system, which informs the driver of the condition of signals and awaits confirmation that the warning has been received, ATP will supervise the driver's response.

Under the present system, a driver can acknowledge a warning signal but can fail to understand what it means and take the appropriate action.

The new technology can monitor and override driver actions if the right decision is not made, taking over the train. It can prevent drivers from passing red lights or exceeding speed limits, while at the same time applying the brakes at a pressure sufficient to reduce speeds without danger.

Trials of two pilot ATP systems are being conducted on the main line between Paddington and Bristol, and on the suburban line between Marylebone and Aylesbury. BR expects to begin work on a national programme in 1992, costing about £300 million.

The main use of the new black box data recorders will be in accident enquiries, enabling investigators to piece together information and identify who or what was responsible. They will also enable rail managers to monitor driver performance.

The data recorders will also monitor signals received by the driver, the action taken, and whether ATP had to intervene to override driver error.

Network SouthEast, the London and regional passenger service, is investing about £5 million installing the new data recorders on trains operating on the Liverpool Street to Cambridge line, and the Euston to Northampton line.

Network SouthEast, the London and regional passenger service, is investing about £5 million installing the new data recorders on trains operating on the Liverpool Street to Cambridge line, and the Euston to Northampton line.

## Doctors too ashamed to seek help

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS addicted to drink and drugs are too ashamed to seek help from their colleagues, a new study shows.

They are found in every branch of medicine and at all levels of seniority, the study in the *British Journal of Addiction* says. They spend an average of almost seven years struggling with their condition before seeking treatment, according to researchers from the Institute of Psychiatry.

Their problems are often aggravated by the reluctance of colleagues to intervene. "We are embarrassed to confront a colleague and uncertain what course to follow," Deborah Brooke, who led the study, says in the journal.

"Many years may pass while a highly trained professional is wrecked," she says. "This is a waste of resources and of potential. To allow the stricken doctor to continue without intervention denies our duty to our colleagues, to patients and to society."

The survey team studied the hospital notes of 144 doctors who had received treatment for drug and alcohol dependency at the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal hospitals in London between 1968 and 1989.

Sixty were alcoholic, 38 abused drugs and 45 were on both drink and drugs. A quarter had injected themselves with drugs, including morphine, and almost as many had taken barbiturates. Most of the doctors had self-prescribed the drugs, in their own names or ostensibly for someone else. Only four had resorted to black-market drugs.

## Man killed mother on eviction day

ROBERT Robson, aged 44, who smothered his mother with a pillow hours before they were to be evicted from their home in Leyton, east London, was given a three-year conditional discharge yesterday after admitting manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The Old Bailey jury had been told she would not let Robson seek help from the council or relatives when they fell behind with their mortgage repayments. She refused to leave their home, threatening to cut her throat when the bailiffs arrived. Robson left the court with relatives.

Judge Nina Lowry said: "I do not think it necessary to pass a custodial sentence in the very particular circumstances of this case." David Paget, for the prosecution, said that Robson repeatedly turned down his mother's demand for a suicide pact. But on the morning the bailiffs were due to take a pillow into her bedroom and smothered her as she lay in bed, then called the police.

Robson after yesterday's court hearing

## Russians digest art of the fireside read

By ROBIN YOUNG

THIS week Russians will start paying to enhance their word power and to discover that laughter is the best medicine. *Reader's Digest*, the world's most widely read magazine, with a circulation of 28 million copies in 16 languages, is launching a Russian edition.

Hitherto, *Reader's Digest*, founded in 1922 by Lila and DeWitt Wallace, has been regarded as a reassuringly traditionalist pocket-size bastion of Western political and family attitudes, full of folksy wisdom, homespun humour, and "real life" anecdotes.

Next month's issue of the British edition has pieces entitled *How to Get Rid of a Pot Belly*, *Home Truths on Buying Abroad*, and *Hospital Smoking - It's Making Us Sick*, and a conveniently shrunken form of the book

*Impossible Journey: Two Against the Sahara*. It is all carefully aimed at a solid, stable readership of comfortably off Western "empty nesters".

Now *Reader's Digest* is on the march in the east. Today's launch of the Russian edition, priced in roubles and with Cyrillic lettering on the cover, will be followed by the launch of a wholly owned Hungarian edition in October. Already the German edition has been heavily promoted in what was East Germany.

For readers in Eastern Europe it could be an introduction not only to a homely fireside read but also to one of the more advanced forms of capitalist enterprise, the direct mailshot.

Despite its huge world-wide sales and readership, the magazine itself contributes less than a third of its publishers' revenues and only a quarter of their corporate profits. The rest comes from sales of books, records, videos and other speciality magazine titles. The engine that drives *Reader's Digest* Association Inc's marketing efforts is not an editorial powerhouse but a database containing information on households that have bought Digest products in the past. From that the company targets customers for its book titles on everything from do-it-yourself to consumer law.

*Reader's Digest* is, of course, the outfit that brought you (in 1983) *The Bible* cut from 800,000 good words down to 450,000. After today's launch in Moscow, simultaneously celebrated in London with the aid of the Moscow State Circus, we may learn what plans, if any, it has for *Das Kapital*.

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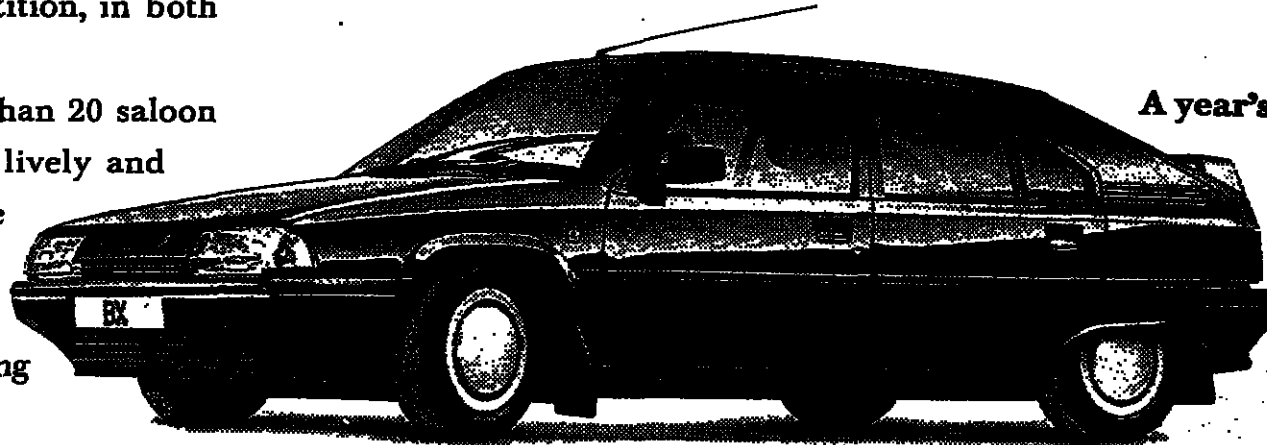
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مكتبة الامم



Fortunes can be honestly made from imitations, but the field can be exploited

## Replicas may soon have own classic car status

IN THE frantic world of classic car enthusiasts replicas of famous models can achieve a classic status of their own and some owners cannot resist the temptation of passing them off as the real thing.

Even though respectable replica producers make every effort to prevent this happening, some imitations slip into the market as originals. There are now 37 Maserati 250Fs in existence when only 34 of the 1950s Grand Prix cars were made. The record for an original Maserati 250F is just under £1 million at auction.

How a replica can be taken for the 'real thing'. Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent, continues *The Times* investigation of the world of classic cars

while replicas can sell for around £300,000 privately.

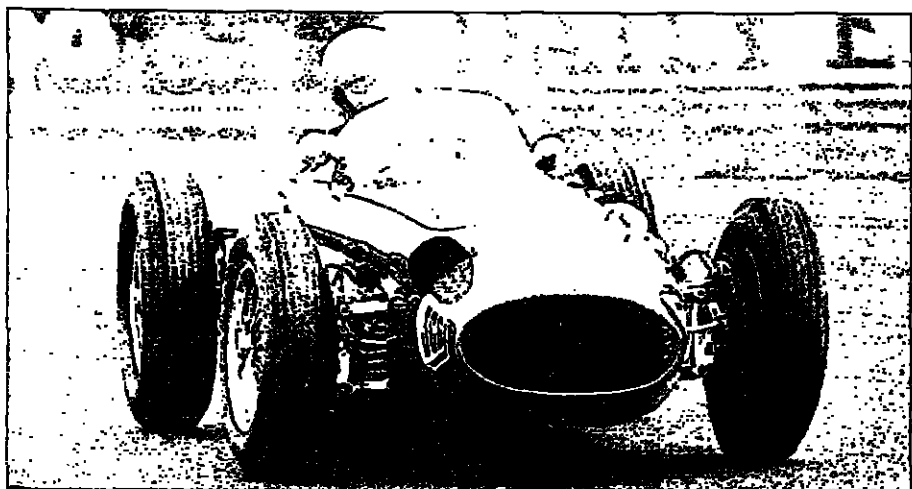
Cameron Millar, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, started making 250F replicas in the late 1960s after buying "a whole heap of bits" from an Italian team called Scuderia Centro Sud. He said that he

wanted the eight replicas he has made so far to remain as such and as a precaution has hammered the letters "CM" and a number denoting the particular model into the chassis frame. He has also attached a small plaque on the dashboard with the same information.

Mr Millar is writing a book on the eight he has built "to prevent people passing them off as originals" but he had to intervene when he spotted an advertisement for one of the cars.

"CM4 got into the hands of some Italian," he said. "I saw it advertised in a magazine saying '250F Grand Prix Maserati in perfect condition... with new chassis by Cameron Millar.' He believed the wording was misleading, implying that the car was genuine apart from the chassis, and informed the Fédération Internationale du Sport Automobile (Fisa).

Further potential confusion could arise from the fact that Fisa now supplies all his replicas with papers, which qualify them to enter international racing competitions. Neil Easton-Gibson, of the RAC Motor Sports Association, who countersigns the papers for Fisa in Britain, says the papers were built up from bits supplied by the factory. Maserati chassis, engines, gearboxes — everything. In time, he said, the CM replicas may gain classic car status "because they are built out of the correct period pieces". Mr Millar said: "I would like that very much."



Track record: one of the 34 much sought original 250Fs racing in the 1950s

## £687,000 ghost sale of a McLaren

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND AND MICHAEL HORNSSELL

AT THE end of Christie's classic car sale in Monterey last August, lot 67, a 1969 McLaren M6GT, was listed as having sold for \$1,320,000. Classic car enthusiasts were surprised that the car had commanded such a high price.

"A unique McLaren M6GT sold for a whopping £687,500," said a report in the internationally circulated *Classic and Sports Car* magazine, based on the list issued by Christie's. In fact, the road-going prototype produced by the Formula 1 racing legend Bruce McLaren had not sold and is still on offer.

Two weeks after the 1990 auction, the owner, Steve Dymand, a New Zealand enthusiast based in

### INACCURATE LISTS

Saratoga, California, approached Robert Brooks, a London auctioneer, with a view to selling through him. Negotiations fell through because a price could not be agreed. It is now planned to sell the car privately and Mr Dymand says he hopes it will reach £600,000.

Mr Dymand told *The Times* that the car had failed to reach its reserve price and did not sell. "It was Christie's mistake to claim the car had sold when it actually failed to reach its reserve," he said.

Brian Cole, head of classic cars at Christie's, confirmed that the press release, issued immediately after the sale, announced the car as sold.

He explained that the purchaser reneged unexpectedly and that an accurate price list was issued 48 hours after the auction.

Christie's has provided *The Times* with a copy of that list, which carries no date other than that of the sale and does not draw attention to the fact that it is a revised list. It omits all mention of Mr Dymand's McLaren, but makes no attempt to point out that the first list was inaccurate.

"The fact remains that the classic car world was left with the impression that the car had sold, and for an impressive price. I remember rumours that the car had not sold, but I do not remember receiving any official correction," said Richard Sutton, deputy editor of *Classic and Sports Car* at that time.

SPANISH practices in the classic car market are being monitored by a new organisation set up to check prices and the accuracy of catalogue entries.

Richard Sutton, former deputy editor of *Classic and Sports Car* magazine, said: "Auctions are in dire need of standard operating conditions. At the moment, auction houses are something of a law unto themselves and are able to get away with current practices by way of blanket disclaimers in small print." His experience of the classic car jungle as a specialist writer and magazine executive convinced him that there was a need for an independent source of sales figures. He believed that so strongly that he set up LOTS, an organisation designed to provide impartial and

### THE CAMPAIGNERS

accurate figures. Immediately after a sale, subscribers are sent faxed sheets including a concise description of a given lot, its condition, and the opinion of Mr Sutton or his American partner on whether it had sold or not.

One case where Mr Sutton believes a classic car went way above its true value was in Tokyo and concerned a 1926 Amilcar. LOTS reported that it reached "£213,750 at the world vintage car auction on March 31".

The car was withdrawn from the auction at that price, having apparently failed to reach a high reserve price. LOTS' original opinion of its value was confirmed when the

Amilcar next appeared at auction in Paris on June 10. This time the car was sold, but for only £71,097 (approximately \$120,000).

Robert Brooks, director of Brooks auctioneers, a London firm he established two years ago after leaving Christie's to set up on his own, said: "The industry does need to be improved. When mud is flying around it often sticks in the wrong places. I want to establish a good set of rules to engender confidence in the market. Financial interest in a car should be indicated in the catalogue, preventing the situation where an auctioneer is also a dealer. At least the buyer has an option to know the auctioneer has a conflicting interest."

Leading article, page 15

## Children urged to aid cruelty enquiry

The chairman of an enquiry into allegations of abuse and cruelty at a children's home in South Wales yesterday urged children who stayed at the home to give information.

Gareth Williams, QC, opening the independent enquiry into the council-run Ty Mawr home in Gwent, said witnesses would not be identified. The enquiry, at Abergavenny magistrates' court, was ordered by the Welsh Office after claims that children were beaten by staff. Four youngsters were said to have attempted suicide.

### Robbery verdict

Eric Rubin, aged 53, a New York antiques dealer, was convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday of a £38,000 armed robbery at Courts Bank, Cavendish Square, central London, in January 1987. The jury failed to reach a verdict on two other charges relating to a £40 million armed raid on the Knightsbridge Safe Deposit centre in July 1987.

### Libel damages

Kathy Birks, aged 47, public relations consultant to Captain Mark Phillips, was awarded "large" libel damages against Mirror Group Newspapers over articles in the *Sunday Mirror* and *People*.

### Gunpoint drive

Two gunmen forced a woman motorist to drive a hundred miles from Buckinghamshire on to a ferry at Poole, Dorset, where she locked the car doors and drove to a police station.

### Baby plea

A woman claiming to be the mother of a baby abandoned at M5 services in Somerset called police and urged them to take care of him.

### Union prize

A £1,000 prize has been offered for the best name suggested for the union formed by the merger of Colne, Nupe and Nalga.

### Ship jobs cut

Seventy jobs are to go at Cochrane Shipbuilders of Selby, North Yorkshire.

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## Mellor opens battle against the cabinet big spenders

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A CABINET meeting today will launch one of the toughest public spending rounds of recent years.

Ministers have put in bids for extra spending in the next financial year that would take the total to nearly £240 billion, compared with the target set in the last budget of £221 billion. But they will be warned today that nothing like that amount of money is available. Letters from the Treasury in response to opening bids are expected to demand compensatory cuts.

David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, who is conducting his first public spending round, will tell today's public spending cabinet that he first essential is to maintain the government's reputation for sound management of the economy and that that means keeping down expenditure as a proportion of gross national product even in an election year. The tough approach has been endorsed by the prime minister.

The cabinet will be discussing expenditure for 1992-3 and senior ministers are agreed that there should be a tight settlement. Spending ministers hoping for a looser rein in the run-up to an election will be disappointed. Treasury ministers have argued for a 1992 election and they have been telling colleagues that there is no point in boosting spending because, with May 1992 the most likely date, no effects would be showing by then anyway.

More than that, with the government attacking Labour's party that is "going for broke again" and suggesting that implementation of its policy pledges would cost an extra £35 billion a year, Mr Mellor is expected to tell his colleagues that it is all the more important that the government shows that it can keep its own spending under control. However, Mr Mellor,

who has already won a tight deal on local authority spending, will be under heavy pressure to permit some increases in the planned spending total, notably on education and health.

The Treasury argues that much can be done by better management of resources and that the concern should be with outputs rather than inputs. But Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, will be able to point to speeches by the prime minister promising an improvement in educational standards and in the status of teachers when he seeks an increase of more than £2 billion for his department. The health secretary, William Waldegrave, will also be pressing for more cash to help to ease in the reforms of the National Health Service.

The rapid increase in unemployment is more than the Treasury had budgeted for. That will lead to increased demands from Tony Newton, the social security secretary.

A key question for the cabinet is likely to be the agreed level of public borrowing for the next financial year. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said in March that it would be £8 billion this year and somewhat more next year. But ministers are hoping that privatisation sales, notably of a further tranche of British Telecom, can restrict the need for increased borrowing, even if spending does rise above the £221 billion target.

What is not being allowed for in Mr Mellor's sums is the citizens' charter. Senior government sources said yesterday that it was too complicated to cost and that it was impossible to say if there would be a net cost to the Exchequer. If performance-related contracts worked well, it was suggested, there could even be a net gain and the aim was that most of the charter's provisions would be self-financing.



Fight for public purse: David Mellor (left) and the big spenders ranged against him — William Waldegrave (top), Kenneth Clarke and Tony Newton

## Water assurance fails to satisfy alarmed House

By JOHN WINDER

THE emergency that led to half a million consumers having to boil drinking water in a large area of north-west London, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire ended last night.

David Trippier, environment minister, told MPs in a Commons statement that he had just learnt that customers need no longer boil their water. The decision has been made in the light of continual satisfactory sampling throughout the area.

Mr Trippier said that a thorough investigation would be made by the environment department drinking water inspectorate into the failure of a disinfection system at Three Valleys Water Services treatment works at Iwer, Buckinghamshire, on Saturday afternoon. If there was evidence that water unfit for human consumption had been supplied, the inspectorate would consider whether to recommend a prosecution.

MPs on all sides expressed disquiet at the delay in telling the public affected that their water should be boiled. One said that he learnt of the incident from the pulpit at church the next morning and another that he found a leaflet in a local shop when buying his child an ice-cream.

Several MPs said that broadcasting stations contacted late on Saturday night had said that the matter was of local concern and did not have

sufficient public interest to merit their broadcasting news about it.

Mr Trippier said that the failure of the chlorination plant happened at about 3.50pm on Saturday, but it took time to diagnose the fault and assess its consequences. By Saturday evening it was clear to the company that about two million to three million gallons of water had been put into the system without the level of chlorination needed for satisfactory disinfection. The company told the appropriate local and health authorities and at about midnight began to seek the assistance of the police and media to warn customers. The drinking water inspectorate was told at 11pm.

Ann Taylor, an Opposition spokesman, asked who would pay for the police time used in warning people. She said that the inspectorate should be more than a couple of dozen civil servants and should be an independent regulating body.

Mr Trippier said that a decision on prosecution would be made in the light of the report of the inspectorate. He was not aware of any provision for the company to pay for police time. There seemed to be questions about delays in informing the public about the matter and it was precisely those questions that he hoped would be addressed by the investigation.

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat spokesman, said that there was a need for emergency civil planning and a policy to communicate such incidents to the public. Leaflets used on such occasions should tell people clearly what they needed to know, not be a "half-true concealing of the truth" as those used on this occasion had been, with statements such as: "There has been partly treated water put into the supply".

Mr Trippier said that he hoped the inquiry would also investigate whether there were sufficient people on duty at the "water" company at the weekend to deal with the emergency.

## Bonus pledged for old people

The Christmas bonus of £10 for pensioners will be paid again this year, to 12 million pensioners, Ann Widdecombe, junior social security minister, said during questions. She said that to bring the real value back to that at which it was first paid would mean increasing it to £39.17, costing about £700 million.

**Moving out** More than 11,000 civil service posts have been located or relocated outside London in the past five years and a further 20,000 posts will follow in the next five, Gillian Shepherd, Treasury minister, said in a written reply. In a further reply, she said that help with house purchase was possible.

## On your bike

The scheme under which civil servants get salary advances to buy season tickets is to be extended to enable them to buy cycles, Gillian Shepherd, Treasury minister, disclosed in a written reply. Advances will also be made to buy car park season tickets.

## Bureaucrats

On April 1, central government was employing 353,863 staff, David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, disclosed in a written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Education; prime minister; Ports bill, Lords amendments. Lords (2.30): Criminal justice bill, Commons amendments. Local government finance and valuation bill and dangerous dogs bill, third readings.

## Cut arms research, say Lib Dems

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SPENDING on military research and development would be halved and the savings switched to the civilian budget under proposals unveiled yesterday by the Liberal Democrats.

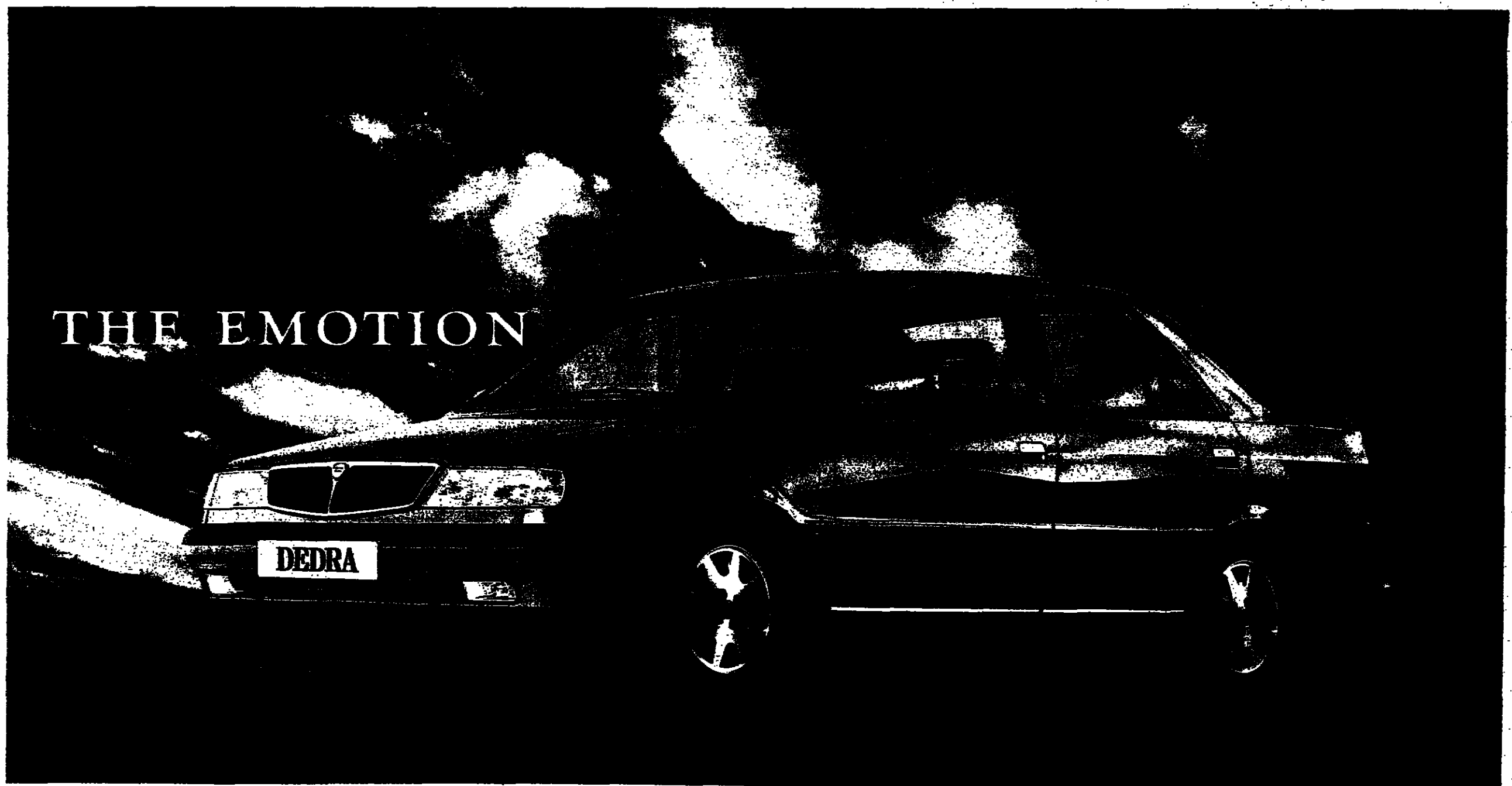
The party also called for the science budget to be restored to its 1979 level of 0.35 per cent of gross domestic product, with an annual increase over the next five years to 0.40 per cent. The increase in government resources devoted to science and technology is

aimed at reversing neglect and underfunding which, the Liberal Democrats said, threatened to make the United Kingdom a minor economic player in Europe.

The policy document, *Science and Survival*, said that, although the United Kingdom's scientific research base remained good, it was threatened by underfunding. In an attempt to improve the quality and productivity of scientific research and innovation, the

party called for a crash training programme for teachers in maths, science and technology and for schools to pay more for shortage-subject teachers.

The document said that there should be an EC defence policy with open procurement and greater collaboration on defence research and development that would enable Britain's defence research and development, which was £1.9 billion in 1988-9, to be cut by half in real terms.



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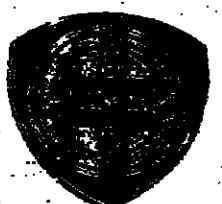
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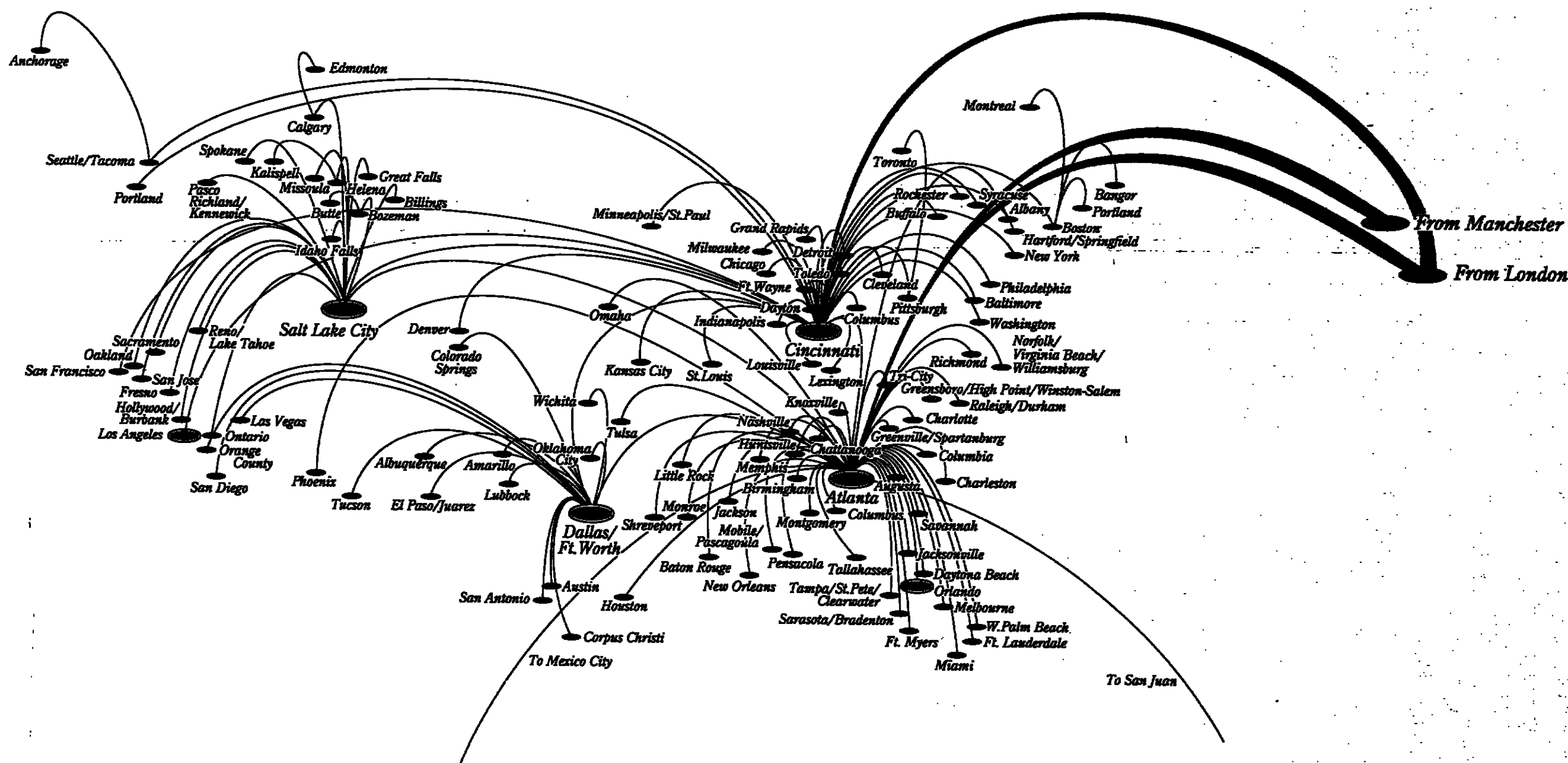






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Pretoria tries to limit damage as Vlok admits £370,000 donations to ANC rivals

## Need to claim moral high ground faces wounded de Klerk

From GAVIN BELL in JOHANNESBURG

AFTER three decades of ruthless political skulduggery, it is not surprising that a few skeletons should tumble from the cupboard of South Africa's ruling National party. That fresh meat has been found clinging to some is the revelation which has undermined both President de Klerk's reformist government and the transition to multiracial democracy.

One of Mr de Klerk's first actions after wresting power from P.W. Botha two years ago was to curtail the influence of a shadowy security establishment which had effectively governed the country. To universal acclaim, he restored the authority of civilian rule and pledged a new era of open government.

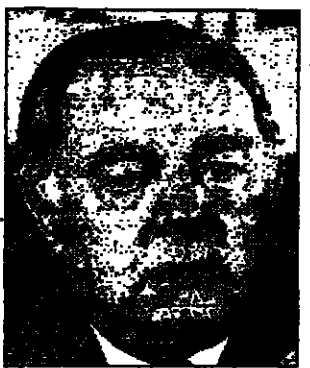
It is now clear that the "dirty tricks" brigade, with senior ministerial approval, has been pursuing its covert activities with vigour. "We have always had a good relationship with Inkatha, and it was easy to pay money into a bank account," Adriaan Vlok, the minister of law and order, told the nation this week.

The scandal is being compared with a similar one in 1978 which brought down the government of John Vorster and hounded Connie Mulder, the information minister, out of the party. Contrary to explicit assurances given by parliament, it was discovered that vast sums had been spent on buying the goodwill of politicians and prominent personalities in Europe and the United States, and acquiring a local newspaper for propaganda purposes. Amid allegations of personal corruption among senior officials, Vorster was forced to resign and Dr Mulder lost the opportunity to succeed him as prime minister.

The implications of the

present furore, however, are more far-reaching. In the late 1970s, the hegemony of Afrikaner nationalists was not threatened, and the conflict was between personalities rather than parties. Today, the stakes are higher, with the nationalists striving to retain a grip on power in an uncertain post-apartheid era.

The consequences are that Mr de Klerk has lost the moral high ground which he gained with his reform initiatives, and that Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha leader, has lost all credibility as an independent political leader. The position of Mr Vlok, as



Vorster: similar scandal prompted his resignation

head of the ministry whose security police acted as the conduit for the covert funding, has become untenable. General Magnus Malan, the defence minister, is equally vulnerable to a crescendo of allegations that members of his security forces have been colluding with Inkatha in its murderous power struggle with the African National Congress.

Even R.F. "Pik" Botha, the popular foreign minister, has exposed himself to danger by disclosing that the funds came from a special foreign affairs

account. In attempting to deflect criticism from his colleagues, Mr Botha has joined the list of ministers being called upon to resign. The Johannesburg newspaper, *The Star*, commented yesterday: "Mr Vlok and Mr Botha now offer the same defence as Dr Mulder: patriotism, and the need to adopt unconventional means in unusual times. They must now take the same path as Dr Mulder and resign." Most damning is that the debacle has cost lives. An Inkatha rally in Durban on March 25 last year, for which the government contributed more than £30,000, was followed by a week of strife in which 160 people were killed and more than 20,000 people, mostly ANC supporters, were made homeless.

When the covert funding was exposed last week, Mr Vlok initially denied knowledge of the fighting and said that Inkatha leaders had called for peace at the rally. "No violence followed, at least not as far as I know," he said. On Sunday night, he conceded that "a few hundred incidents of violence" had occurred in Natal during March. Such clumsy attempts to gloss over the consequences of government actions are deemed to require Mr Vlok's dismissal.

The restrained response of Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, indicates that moves towards constitutional negotiations will continue, but it is assumed that the government will have to pay a price for its subterfuge. *Business Day*, a financial newspaper, said: "President de Klerk, having lost the high ground which he held for so long, has no option but to rid himself of incompetent ministers who have made him hostage to the seurocrats... if he is to fight back, he must begin by restoring government's integrity."



Strained alliance: Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha president, with Adriaan Vlok, the South African law and order minister, last December. Their political futures are in doubt after revelations of state donations to the ANC's rivals

## Troubled cabinet goes into hiding

By GAVIN BELL

THE South African government went into a three-day conclave at a secret location yesterday in an attempt to find a way out of the most serious crisis facing the ruling National party in recent history.

The extended cabinet, including deputy ministers and administrators, is under intense pressure to provide a satisfactory response to a covert funding scandal which threatens several senior ministers, as well as the turbulent reform process.

Demands for ministerial resignations, an emergency session of parliament, and a judicial investigation gained momentum across the political spectrum after Adriaan

Vlok, the minister of law and order, revealed that Pretoria had secretly donated almost £370,000 to black political rivals of the African National Congress over a period of six years.

The amount was seven times that which Mr Vlok initially admitted had been provided to the Inkatha Freedom party and a trade union affiliate as recently as March last year. His latest disclosure came in a televised debate, in which he was questioned about claims that the security police had channelled more than £1 million to the small United Workers' Union (Uwusa). Mr Vlok said the figure was "way off the mark".

In response to calls for his resignation, Mr Vlok said he would reconsider his position if he were deemed to be an obstacle to the reform process, and that he would be discussing the matter with President de Klerk. However, even the minister's departure is unlikely to satisfy the government's vociferous critics.

Peter Wronsky, the auditor general, said yesterday that Mr de Klerk and Barend du Plessis, the finance minister, were obliged by law to sign audit reports disclosing the use of secret funds. "If the requisite signatures are there, that satisfies the auditor. The purpose to which the funds are put is something which would

be debated in the political arena," he said.

Zach de Beer, the leader of the Democratic party, urged Mr de Klerk yesterday to recall parliament from its annual recess, saying a full public debate was essential to resolve a crisis of government credibility. The far-right Conservative party called on the government to resign and hold general elections.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, said in Spain the disclosures proved that political violence in black communities was being orchestrated by the security forces, in collusion with "this black organization and the government".

## Sandinistas vote for Ortega as leader

Managua — Daniel Ortega, the former president of Nicaragua, was elected secretary-general of the Sandinista National Liberation Front at the party's first national congress, which ended on Sunday. Señor Ortega was the only candidate for the new post. All seven previous members of the Sandinistas' national directorate were re-affirmed. Party leaders had opposed any radical change of leadership, saying it would divide the movement. (Reuters)

## Powell visit

Moscow — General Colin Powell, the chairman of the American joint chiefs of staff, was warmly greeted by General Mikhail Moiseyev, his Soviet counterpart, at the start of their third meeting in two months. General Powell said they were seeing each other "as friends and soldiers... committed to peace." (AP)

## Ethiopia return

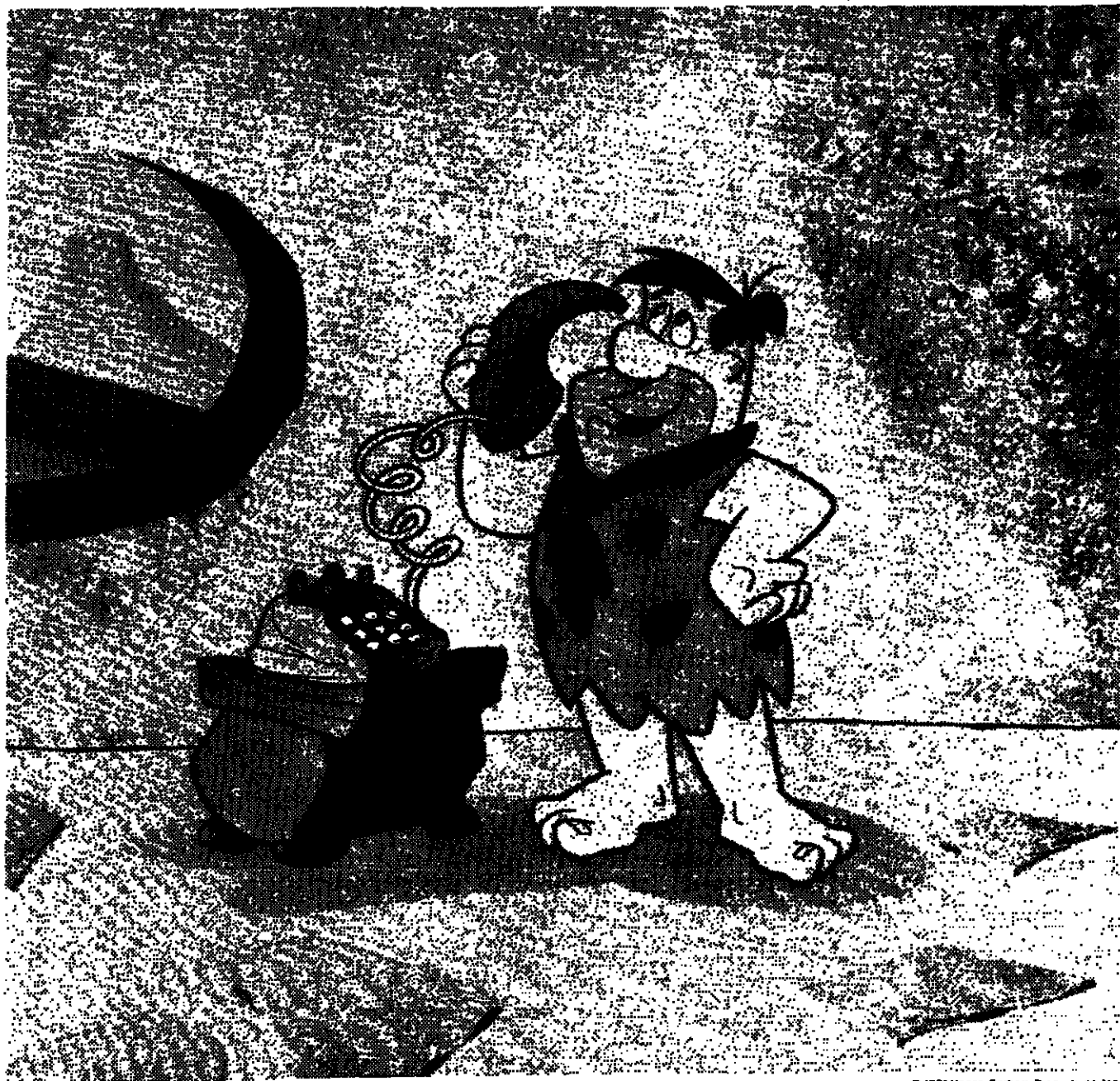
Khartoum — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is to repatriate thousands of Ethiopians who fled to Sudan to escape the fighting in their country. Sudan's refugee commissioner said. He added that the Ethiopian government guaranteed that the returned refugees would not be harmed. (AP)

## Suez tugboat

Port Said — Egypt and Denmark will build the world's most powerful tugboat of 20,000 horsepower to operate in the Suez canal, Ezat Adel, the canal's director, said. The Suez canal authority's yard at Port Said, across the channel from Port Fuad, will take just over 11 months to build the boat. (AP)

## Cliff execution

Nicosia — Revolutionary Guards in Iran executed a man aged 21 by throwing him off a cliff after he was convicted of raping three boys and murdering two of them, the Iranian newspaper, *Salam*, reported. The man was sentenced to death by an Islamic court in Kerman province. (AP)



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# Britain protests over US veto on Iran air deal

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT, AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN has protested strongly to the United States over Washington's veto of a \$90 million sale of British civilian aircraft to Iran.

Washington's refusal to allow the sale of four British Aerospace 146 airliners to Asseman Airlines, an internal Iranian carrier, is likely to lead to a political row similar to the long quarrel in the 1980s over the American attempt to veto British participation in the building of a gas pipeline from Siberia.

The refusal comes after months of lobbying in Washington. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, raised the issue with James Baker, the American Secretary of State, at the G7 summit in London last week. The United States still maintains a trade embargo on Iran, claiming Tehran is still supporting international terrorism. But attempts to enforce the embargo on third countries raise the vexed question of extra-territorial jurisdiction, which Britain has long opposed. The

BAe146 aircraft has a significant proportion of American parts, including the wings, engines and flight computers. For deliveries of the 146 jet, BAe has to make an application to the American commerce department to obtain a re-export licence because the aircraft includes American-made engines, the ALF502, made by Textron Lycoming, a large US industrial and defence conglomerate, based in Stratford, Connecticut.

Textron is the only company in the world to produce this type of engine, so BAe has no alternative but to follow the commerce department's ruling. Permission for re-export of parts is needed if these exceed 10 per cent.

British Aerospace thought permission would be granted as America had raised no objection to the sale of Dutch-built Fokker100 passenger planes to Iran Air, the state airline. These aircraft also had American parts, though to a lesser degree.

A British Aerospace spokes-

man expressed his company's disappointment at the decision, although this has not yet been formally communicated. The package was worth about \$150 million (\$89 million), with an option for another eight aircraft, with hopes for an eventual sale of up to 50. BAe was hoping that the sale, the first to the Middle East, would mark a breakthrough for the plane in a competitive market.

"We are doubly disappointed that the refusal is over something that is not within the control of either of the parties concerned," the spokesman said.

Britain is to continue lobbying the Bush administration at a high level. The Foreign Office will point out that the proposed sale does not breach any guidelines on the sale of high technology or arms. The State Department, however, appears to be holding firm to its decision, conveyed informally to Britain on July 12.

In Washington, informed sources said the department argued privately that permitting the Fokker sale caused such controversy in Congress that it did not want to risk a repeat. There is little record of such controversy, however.

A State Department spokesman said yesterday that the decision to veto the deal reflected Washington's "deep concern" that even after a year of significant changes in the region, Iran had not ended its support for terrorism.

"We do not favour normal political, commercial and diplomatic relations with Iran until the hostages are free and it has ceased supporting terrorism," he said.

Britain restored diplomatic



Sir Antony Acland, intensive lobbying in Washington.

relations with Iran in September, but has refused to exchange ambassadors until Western hostages, including three Britons, have been released by the pro-Iranian groups holding them in Lebanon.

BAe first sounded the administration out last summer. British officials, including Sir Antony Acland, the British ambassador in Washington, and at least two ministers began to lobby intensely. It is believed that the American commerce department had raised no objections to the sale, although that could not be immediately confirmed yesterday.



Independent spirits: Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini, two of the Palestinian leaders who met James Baker in Jerusalem. They said Israel's attitude to Palestinian representation and the city's status was a block to peace.

## PLO to stay out of talks

FROM ADAM KELLIER IN AMMAN

AFTER being sidelined by key political allies, abandoned by financial backers and trounced in southern Lebanon, it now seems that the Palestine Liberation Organisation will not be officially represented at the proposed regional peace conference with Israel.

Outwardly, the PLO's decision to drop its insistence on attending a meeting aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli dispute is a capitulation. The organisation has served for decades as a de facto state. The move puts further pressure on Israel, however, by eradicating yet another of Jerusalem's preconditions for its attendance at any talks.

Israel said after the weekend visit made to the Middle East by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, that it is still waiting for clarification from Washington about who would represent the Palestinians. The Jewish state has said that it will only meet Palestinians who do not belong to the PLO, and it wants to be able to veto representatives. This is mainly to block the attendance of any Arab from east Jerusalem. Israel says its claim to sovereignty over the whole city is not negotiable.

Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, said on Sunday that the organisation accepted American proposals that delegates from inside and outside the occupied territories could represent the Palestinians.

But PLO officials say that the group will still insist that it selects the Palestinian delegates. As a result, the negotiating team would be for all purposes a PLO body, allowing Mr Arafat to save face and leaving it to the Israelis to decide if the obstacle remains.

Tentative steps, page 1

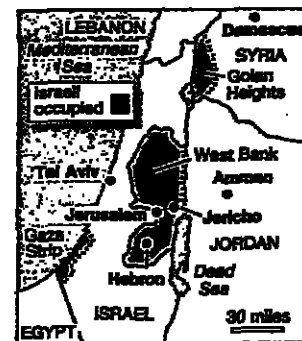
## Settlers fear deportation as price for Arab peace

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, yesterday could put behind him the unpleasant memories of previous missions to Israel, when his arrival would invariably prompt the creation of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Right-wingers used the tactic of opening a new colony to embarrass and enrage the American envoy and highlight their claims to all lands captured by Israel in the 1967 six-day war.

Yesterday, however, when Israel radio announced plans for four new settlements in the Golan Heights, the issue did not even merit a mention from the American diplomatic team in Jerusalem, who seem convinced nothing can derail



The strategic heights were captured from Syria in 1967 and annexed by Israel in 1981, but since Damascus has offered to negotiate directly with Israel, their future remains uncertain. Similarly worrying for the settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which remain under Israeli military administration, is the knowledge that the territories have long been considered by the outside world and a large minority of Israelis as the obvious location for a future Palestinian homeland.

peace with the Arabs. "If people feel the government is hesitating over its promise to keep the territories, it will have a negative effect on their development," said Shlomo Hillel, an opposition Labour party member of the Knesset who heads the Golan lobby, set up to help the development of the heights.

The strategic heights were captured from Syria in 1967 and annexed by Israel in 1981, but since Damascus has offered to negotiate directly with Israel, their future remains uncertain. Similarly worrying for the settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which remain under Israeli military administration, is the knowledge that the territories have long been considered by the outside world and a large minority of Israelis as the obvious location for a future Palestinian homeland.

Instead, the people who are most worried now are the settlers, many of whom fear that their prefabricated suburban-style homes dotted inconspicuously on the hillsides of the West Bank, the Mediterranean dunes of the Gaza Strip, and the plateau of the Golan Heights may be sacrificed for

## Turkey looks for more than praise

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, will leave today from a Turkish capital jaded by the flow of high-level dignitaries. Even as he departs, Gustave Feissel, assistant to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general, will arrive accompanied by Oscar Camillón, the UN special envoy to Cyprus.

Cyprus was also mentioned by President Bush, as he took off from Turkey yesterday. "If a wall in Berlin can fall to human brotherhood, so can ancient hatreds on Cyprus," he said. Mr Hurd's visit, the British embassy emphasises, is not part of an international assault to resolve the Cyprus problem.

Iraq, as well as Cyprus, will figure in his talks with Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish prime minister, and President Ozal

today. Turkey has accepted basing a multinational force on its southeast border as a deterrent to aggression by President Saddam Hussein against the Kurds. The detail is still being negotiated.

Turkey, which feels it sacrificed enough during the Gulf war, is eager to see some semblance of normality on its border with Iraq. Mr Hurd said on his arrival in Ankara that to avoid a repeat of the refugee problem Turkey might have to tolerate a small force on its border, albeit for a short time. The risk of another flood of refugees was minimal.

Mr Hurd yesterday praised Turkey's "courageous" role in the Gulf. His hosts will be arguing today whether this praise will translate into concessions, particularly relating to the European Community.

## Dhaka burdened by flood havoc

Dhaka — Floodwaters have left a trail of destruction across the ricefields of Bangladesh as thousands of harried peasant families, still suffering from the devastation of a cyclone less than three months ago, counted fresh losses yesterday (Ahmed Fazi writes).

The official news agency said a million people have become homeless and more than three million others were displaced as a fresh wave of flooding, triggered by monsoon rains and mountain torrents, inundated 14 districts in northern and southern Bangladesh.

More than 100 people have died since the surge of water a week ago washed away huts, damaged bridges and disrupted communications, rebuilt after the April cyclone.

## Kuwait award

Kuwait — General Norman Schwarzkopf, who led the allies to victory against Iraq, was given the emirate's highest honour — the gold and blue sash of the Distinguished Order of Kuwait — while on a visit to say farewell to the 3,700 American troops who remain here. (Reuters)

## Minister quits

Algiers — Ali Benflis, the justice minister, has left the Algerian government, reportedly in protest over army intervention in law enforcement since a state of emergency was declared last month to curb Muslim fundamentalists. A communiqué said Mr Benflis had been replaced by a lawyer, Hamdani Benkhelil. (AP)

## Floods recede

Peking — Floodwaters are receding in eastern and central China, the areas worst hit by flooding which has claimed up to 2,000 lives, officials said. Water levels of the Yangtze and Hsiao rivers, which cross Anhui, Hubei and Jiangsu provinces, have begun to fall but were still above danger levels. (AFP)

## Korean switch

Seoul — The command structure of the Combined Field Army, one of the units controlled by US-South Korean Combined Forces Command, will be disbanded next year, a defence ministry spokesman said. He confirmed that a South Korean would replace an American as commander of all ground troops. (Reuters)

## Sudden landfall

Columbus, Ohio — A sky-diving instructor and his student survived a 13,500-ft fall with a torn parachute after an emergency chute apparently opened in a plane and dragged them out.

## Changing hands

Sydney — Frank Belan, the New South Wales secretary of the National Union of Workers, had the top of his left fourth finger bitten off while he was discussing amalgamation plans with the Australian Transport Workers' Union. He said he was attacked by several transport union members. (Reuters)

## Shamed Tokyo financiers bow out

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE chairman and the vice-chairman of Nomura Securities, the world's most powerful stockbroking firm, resigned yesterday during an extraordinary directors' board meeting. Setsuya Tabuchi, the chairman, and Yoshihisa Tabuchi, the vice-chairman but no relation, said they wished Nomura to make a fresh start after the securities scandal has just rocked Japanese financial circles for over three weeks.

The country's four largest securities firms have allegedly been compensating favoured

clients against ministry of finance rules, and two firms, including Nomura, have admitted lending money to well-known gangsters. The two Tabuchis will become advisers to the company with no official executive control, according to Nomura officials.

Yesterday's resignations follow admissions from Japan's fifth largest securities firm, New Japan Securities, that it too had been improperly compensating favoured clients for their stock and bond investment losses in 1989 and 1990. Japanese newspapers

have reported that a further 17 stockbroking firms, including Kokusai Securities, a medium-sized firm effectively controlled by Nomura, Wako Securities and Kanakaku Securities are also suspected of guaranteeing compensation to selected clients.

That the scandal has dragged on for now for four weeks is being blamed on the allegedly weak leadership of Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister. "Had one of our more forceful prime ministers of the past been in charge, like Yasuhiro Nakasone, the

whole thing would have been tied up in days," said a senior official at the Japan Development Bank. "The current administration is not strong enough to do that."

Mr Kaifu, who has at best a precarious hold on his office, flew back to Tokyo on Sunday after a week of media pampering on the G7 summit stage in London. He declined to comment on yesterday's developments. But with Mr Kaifu's term of office coming to an end in October, senior politicians are anxious to be done with the scandal. The finance minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, who was a strong contender to replace Mr Kaifu as prime minister, has seen his prospects for securing the post dim further with every scandalous revelation condemning his constituents.

Japan's securities industry seems to have resolved to deal with the problem itself. Yesterday's admission of shame and the painful contribution shown by the two top Nomura executives is expected, curiously enough, to boost public confidence. The gesture will certainly help to get Nomura off the hook, if further evidence of corruption or other misdemeanours come to light.

"If there are any more embarrassing incriminations to come, the new leadership will be able to shrug them off as the problems of a past generation," Ikuo Anai, a stock market analyst, said.



Kim book describes her recruitment to terrorism

## Bomber's memoirs earn \$1m

Seoul — A North Korean woman terrorist, sentenced to death for bombing a South Korean airliner with 115 people on board in November 1987 and later pardoned by the Seoul government, has become a dollar millionaire here for her autobiography.

Press reports yesterday said that Kim Hyon Hui, aged 29, stands to earn \$1.37 million (\$815,000) in royalties, as her book, entitled *Now, I Want To Become A Woman*, has sold 400,000 copies in the month since publication. The book describes how she was recruited while a student in Pyongyang and underwent years of training in seclusion with no time for a single date. (AFP)

WASHINGTON NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

## America works up lethal lather in the big heat

The staid Washington Post yesterday wrote a pro-frontrunner headline, conflating the re-release of a classic Walt Disney movie with the stifling heat wave that has settled over the eastern United States for the past eight days: "In dog days of July, 101 doesn't mean dalmatians".

In a capital suffocating in hot, wet, stagnant air hazy with trapped pollutants, and as the temperature has risen on successive days from 91F to 93F, 95F, 98F, 99F, 101F and around 100F again yesterday, humour has been in somewhat short supply. But the Post is doing its best. At the weekend it ran an article on the virtues of perspiration.

"The mercury's rising, so work up a good lather and let the good times roll," the article exhorted. Washington's authorities disagreed. After eight days, the stale air has become so unhealthy that they have been advising the young and old to stay indoors.

Such is the humidity that just standing still is enough to leave your shirt clinging to your back. The cause of the discomfort is the Ber-

muda High, a dome of high pressure over the Atlantic coast sucking up hot air and moisture from the south and southwest.

In Wichita, Kansas, it has been 100F or more for six days. In New York, Central Park reached 102F on Sunday. That day Baltimore tied its previous record of

feeling heat causes noticeable changes in mood and behaviour. Between Thursday and Sunday nights there were 10 killings in the Washington area, high even by the standards of America's murder capital. The Mall, normally a seething throng in July, was practically deserted on Sunday, visitors fleeing to the cool of the museums or cinemas.

Workers are likewise spurning the streets at lunchtime and remaining in their air-conditioned offices.

Two-thirds of all American homes and 90 per cent of cars here have air conditioning. In normal times, air-conditioning accounts for about 13 per cent of total American electricity usage, but electricity companies up and down the East Coast are now reporting record surges in demand as units are turned up full blast.

The poor, especially those in inner cities, have devised their own means of cooling off. They are prying open neighbourhood water hydrants, capable of discharging 1,000 gallons a minute, and luxuriating in the deluge.



104F. Not until Thursday is Washington's temperature expected to drop back to the low 90s.

## US steps up photo enquiry

Bangkok — The United States is stepping up its investigation of a photograph that purports to show three American servicemen still alive after being shot down and captured in the Vietnam war, American sources said yesterday.

Kenneth Quinn, assistant secretary of state, will fly to Vietnam and Laos, the sources said, while a ten-man team from the defence department visiting Thailand, investigates the photograph, reported to have been carried across the Thai border from Cambodia. The photograph, obtained by the defence department last September, shows three men and a sign with cryptic wording. Rel-

atives of three airmen shot down in Vietnam and Laos say they are convinced that the photograph is real. The three men appear to be holding a sign with numbers that could signify the date May 25, 1990. The photograph has rekindled hope that not all the 2,274 servicemen missing in action have died. They include 1,637 in Vietnam, 528 in Laos, 83 in Cambodia and six in Chinese waters.

Mr Quinn is to meet officials in Hanoi and Vientiane, according to the sources. The schedule of his visit was not available.

A copy of the photograph was handed to Vietnam's delegation at the United Nations. All three Indochinese nations deny holding any American prisoners. Refugees, guerrillas and others have emerged from Indochina in recent years carrying bones, maps and letters purported to be from American prisoners. They hope to earn a cash reward or gratitude from the United States. Most of the material is fraudulent.

But publicity generated by the photograph has forced the defence and State departments to make extra efforts, although some officials are sceptical. The sources said that about 50 employees of the Defence Intelligence Agency have been mobilised for the task.



# Eurocrats bury a buzz word only a pope could understand



Pope XI: preached need for grassroots power

A WORD has gone missing in Whitehall and Brussels. A couple of years ago, no speech by a British minister dealing with Europe was complete without a reference to the "subsidiarity" principle. Now the word has vanished as suddenly as it appeared.

Subsidiarity never caught on as a popular topic in pubs and was never going to set light to a party manifesto. After years of being bandied around as the magic solution to the growth of Brussels' power, subsidiarity figures just once in the EC's draft treaty on political and monetary union. The wording of the subsidiarity clause is vague and weak when set beside the very large and precise expansions of community powers mapped out in the rest of the text.

George Brock reports from Brussels on the rise and fall of a flexible concept born in the Thirties, fêted and indulged in the Eighties and abandoned in the Nineties

arguing for a United States of Europe to Mrs Thatcher's ministers thought subsidiarity would help their cause gives one clue to why the word has now dropped out of fashion. Subsidiarity is not a principle but a pressure. Devolving of power downwards is better than pushing it upwards, but Pope Pius said nothing about how this is to be decided in practice. Who is to have the final decision about what is done at what level? Does it mean devolution of administration and implementation – or of all decision-making and

accountability? Examined closely – as it now has been by many more people than had ever heard the word three years ago – subsidiarity turns out to be an excellent liberalising tendency which is hard to put to practical use. Subsidiarity also disappeared from view because it was swallowed by the legal technicians drafting the new European treaty. The current draft says that the EC will only act where it can do better than its member states acting separately. Britain still argues that this formula faces the wrong way: that the wording

should only allow Brussels to take a hand where it can show that governments cannot cope. EC action to clean up the environment is widely popular and generally accepted by Britain. The government is, on the other hand, not convinced that the new treaty need give the community powers to persuade people to take holidays outside the EC or to "contribute to the flowering of the culture of member states". Subsidiarity has turned out to be partly a legal problem, but mostly a political headache for Britain. The treaty drafters have been unable to agree on a clear legal "test" which a court could use to see whether, say, a proposal on minimum animal welfare standards for Europe's zoos violates the principle of subsidiarity by interfering

with national responsibilities or not. The draft treaty's hazy justifications for extending pan-European regulation make clear justifications for community powers more necessary than they have ever been. But British officials do not sound very confident that they can persuade the rest of the community to their version of subsidiarity.

The technical problems are worsened by the EC's political divisions. A majority of governments want the community to integrate politically, by passing more power to Brussels. Those governments would like a federal system to have its checks and balances: the community must be careful not to get drunk on its own powers, M Delors once said. But at least some British politicians and officials would like to use subsidiarity to stop the transfer of power to the centre and tilt the balance of power back in favour of national governments. The result is a messy compromise.

Leading article, page 15

## Soviet battle to save grain harvest heads for defeat

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

WARNINGS from Gavril Popov, the mayor of Moscow, that a chaotic harvest and food shortages could lead to "fascist dictatorship" have come as a shock in a country where many citizens are still picking berries at their summer cottages and rejoicing over liberal victories in last month's Russian elections. But reports reaching Moscow from state farms all over the Soviet Union suggest that Mr Popov, who is not prone to excessive alarmism, did not exaggerate when he predicted moribund problems.

The food scarcities of last winter reflected poor distribution of the best crop in history. Last year at least 260 million tonnes of grain ripened in the fields of which a respectable 237 million was harvested and 218 million was left after processing – easily enough to feed the country, if efficiently used. But this year a severe drought affected western Siberia, Kazakhstan and parts of southern Russia last month. Yield are down by a quarter in the areas harvested so far, and experts expect a net harvest of 190 million tonnes at best. Even after the bumper



Demi Moore: pregnant pose for magazine

## Uncover girl has her baby

From REUTERS IN LOS ANGELES

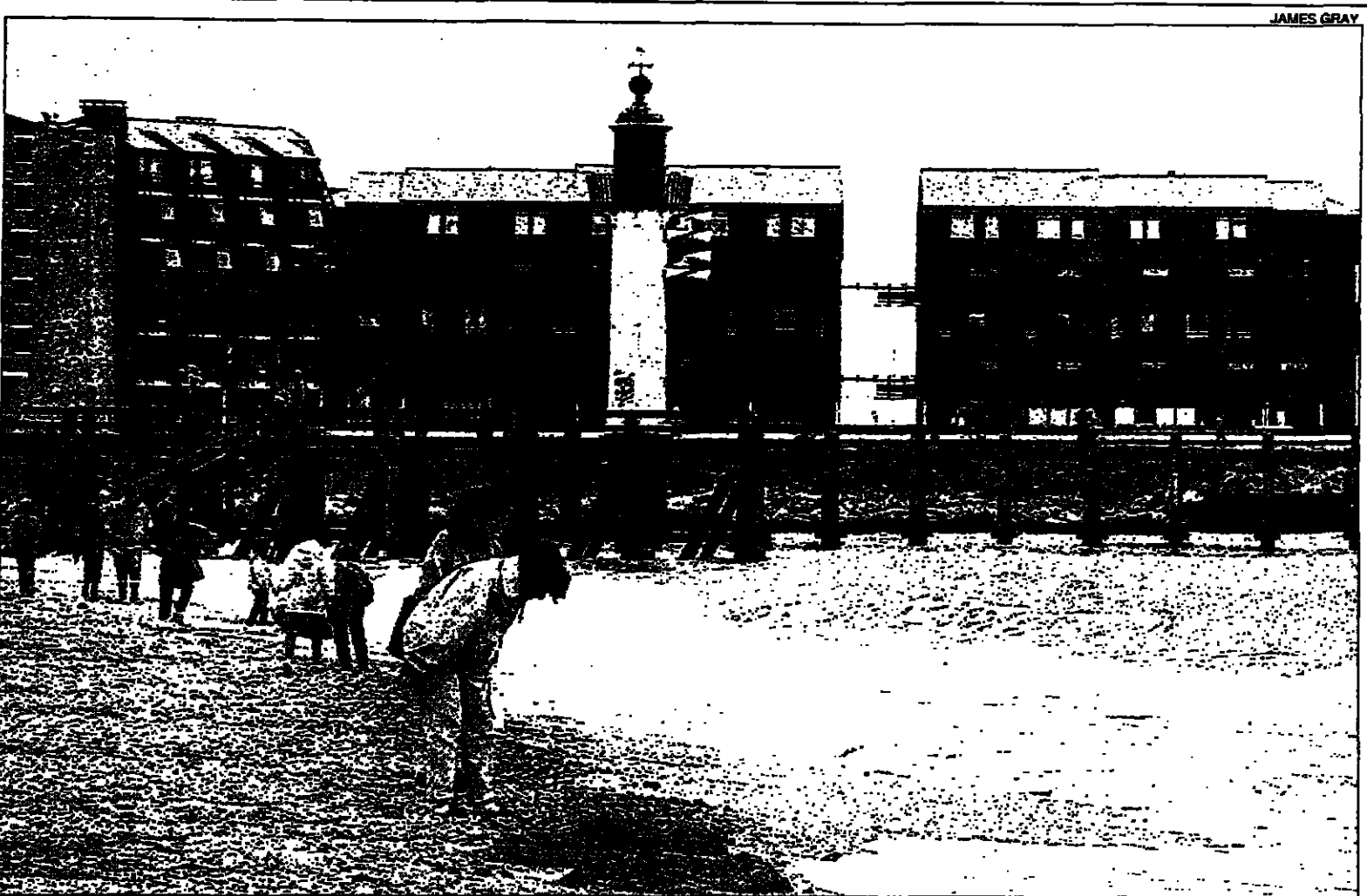
DEMI Moore, the actress who created a stir by posing pregnant nude on a magazine cover, gave birth to a girl weighing 6.6lb at the weekend, a spokesman said.

Ms Moore, aged 28, who is married to actor Bruce Willis, aged 36, had a healthy baby, Scott LaRue Willis, on Saturday, Paul Bloch, the spokesman said. The photograph of Miss Moore, obscured only by carefully placed hands, on the cover of *Vanity Fair* led to the magazine being sold in a white paper wrapper in parts of the United States.

Scene retailers absolutely refused to stock the edition, while others placed extra orders. Miss Moore and Mr Willis have another daughter, Rumor Glenn Willis, who will be three years' old next month.

Ms Moore videotaped the birth of her first child in 1988 and the likes to show it to friends. "Pregnancy agrees with me," she told *Vanity Fair*.

Mr Willis starred in the television series, *Moonlighting*, and has also been in such films as *Die Hard*, *Die Hard 2*, and the recent *Hudson Hawk*. Miss Moore's films include *Ghost* and *St Elmo's Fire*.



All washed up: visitors inspecting the beach at Trouville, on the French side of the Channel, which has failed EC standards for bathing water

## Brussels pinpoints bathing blackspots

From TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

FOR this summer's holiday-makers, the European Commission has made choosing which beaches to avoid in Europe a little easier, through its latest report into the quality of bathing water.

The maps with the 55-page report show which beaches are potentially hazardous, marking them in red. One official said that he would give a wide berth to Cleethorpes: "It's horrendous."

In general, Britain's beaches fare well on the map, but the northwest coast near Blackpool is littered with red. "A nasty place," the same source said.

Most functionalities and their families can probably safely be assumed not to be heading up the M6 this August, however. Another official said he would definitely avoid any red beaches in Spain, where he said

standards varied more widely than anywhere in the EC. Factors to take into consideration were proximity to the mouth of an estuary (Cleethorpes' downfall) and tidal currents. A strong current helps to wash most classified nasties – coliform and faecal coliform bacteria – well out to sea.

The commission's "blue flag" scheme is becoming more accepted. These beaches comply with commission standards for cleanliness; for example, no more than 500 coliform bacteria, which can cause stomach upsets, per 100 millilitres of water. Any trace of salmonella disqualifies a beach altogether – and those heading for Belgium beware.

## Bugs invade Normandy beaches

THE rich are different from us. They have clean water on their beaches.

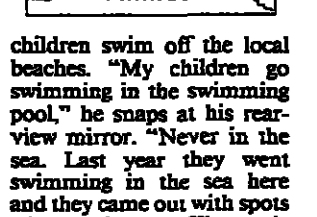
In Deauville, on the north coast of France, the sea in which playboys paddle after a day at the races or a night in the casino is clean. In Trouville, the kiss-me-quick resort next door, it is not.

Nor is the water up to scratch in Honfleur, the pretty fishing port a few miles up the Normandy coast at the mouth of the Seine, where French and English families have taken summer holidays for ages.

"I would never let Sebastian swim in this water," says Annick Hamon, a nanny. Sebastian is her two-year-old charge. This water is the sea in front of the beach at Honfleur, although the beach is thick with people on

a sunny day. "The water here is polluted. There is industry all along the Seine, which comes out here. The water is grey. There is raw sewage pouring straight into the Channel and into the Seine near here. There aren't enough purification plants: it's too expensive."

Our taxi driver, Alain Lucas, is not sure if we are trying to be funny or insulting when we ask if his



children swim off the local beaches. "My children go swimming in the swimming pool," he snaps at his rear-view mirror. "Never in the sea. Last year they went swimming in the sea here and they came out with spots all up their arms. The sea is dirty. Yesterday they had an item on the television saying that all the fish in the Seine estuary near Honfleur are dead."

For lunch at a bar in Honfleur, I was offered moules marinières or grilled fish – "all very fresh and caught locally". "Er..."

The country that comes off best is Ireland. Bottom of the league is bathing in landlocked Luxembourg. The commission describes the situation in the lower Sûre valley as "critical". Bathing there has been banned.

## Venice channels tourist flood

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

BY NEXT year, Venice will be using a complex system of internationally linked computers to regulate the flow of tourists and to avoid chronic overcrowding in its narrow alleys and piazzas.

The £9 million system will monitor streets, museums, hotels, and theatres, as well as the parking network. The information will be available immediately to tour organisers and individual visitors all over the world through a Telex-type network. They will then be able to choose the least crowded periods and routes.

The memory of last summer, when the city was unexpectedly invaded by an army of Eastern European day-trippers, is still vivid in Venetian minds. On a single day, 1,200 coaches unloaded more than 60,000 visitors, more from the freshly opened frontiers of Czechoslovakia, in the area around St Mark's Square.

Since that day, there have been repeated calls for a limit on day-trippers. But Ugo Bergamo, the mayor of Venice, dismisses this as irrational hysteria, and refuses to think of Venice as a kind of "forbidden city" open only to those who can afford to pay the expensive hotel rates.

"It is simply a question of regulating the flow of visitors, not of limiting it," said Signor Bergamo. "We have already succeeded in persuading tour operators from Eastern Europe to stagger their groups through the week."

The alderman for tourism, Gianfranco Pontel, said: "We estimate that Venice, with about 75,000 residents and 10,000 to 13,000 people in hotels, can comfortably handle up to 50,000 day visitors. We are now trying to get

visitors to see parts of Venice other than the usual St Mark's and Rialto... it is not just a small central area of Venice which is worth seeing."

## Fighting spreads in Croatia

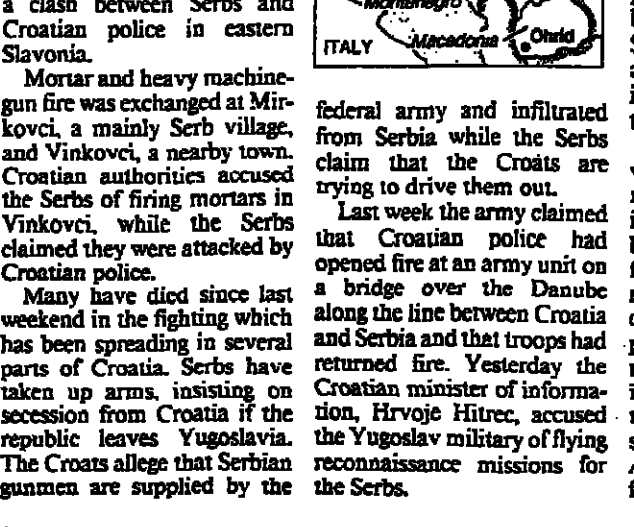
From DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

AS YUGOSLAV politicians gathered in the Macedonian resort of Lake Ohrid, 12 people were reported killed in a clash between Serbs and Croatian police in eastern Slavonia.

Mortar and heavy machine-gun fire was exchanged at Mirkovci, a mainly Serb village, and Vinkovci, a nearby town. Croatian authorities accused the Serbs of firing mortars in Vinkovci, while the Serbs claimed they were attacked by Croatian police.

Many have died since last weekend in the fighting which has been spreading in several parts of Croatia. Serbs have taken up arms, insisting on secession from Croatia if the republic leaves Yugoslavia. The Croats allege that Serbian gunmen are supplied by the

federal army and infiltrated from Serbia while the Serbs claim that the Croats are trying to drive them out. Last week the army claimed that Croatian police had opened fire at an army unit on a bridge over the Danube along the line between Croatia and Serbia and that troops had returned fire. Yesterday the Croatian minister of information, Hrvoje Hitrec, accused the Yugoslav military of flying reconnaissance missions for the Serbs.



Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, on an unscheduled visit to Osijek, the capital of eastern Slavonia, made it clear that Croatia would not relinquish the territory. He said that Croatia would find a way to help the population defend its eastern border and would tell the Serbian leadership that its assistance to the Serbian insurgents amounted to a threat to the Serbs there.

The escalation in fighting will now clearly dominate the meeting of Yugoslav leaders in Ohrid. The gathering will bring together the country's federal presidency, the six republic presidents and various federal leaders. It takes place under the shadow of a threat from the defence minister, Veljko Kadijevic. He has told the republican leadership that they have until August 15 to produce a plan for the country's future.

## Resort to crime

BAFFI – A Royal Canadian Mounted Police computer search for men with criminal records in this mountain resort found that 70 per cent of the men had been convicted at least once, police said. The national average was less than one in ten. Police were looking for possible suspects in a still-unsolved murder. (AFP)

Looking back, page 14

## Polls apart

Berlin – Most people living in former communist East Germany think after unification that their neighbours to the west are arrogant while those in western Germany think their new fellow citizens are lazy and dependent, according to an opinion poll. (AFP)



Liz Smith reports on the extremes of high style being paraded in Paris and the true worth of the world's most exclusive clothes

# Sometimes silly but still a cut above

A designer can obviously let rip when creating clothes with no pretensions to commerciality. At the haute couture shows in Paris this week designers feel free to veer between two extremes of high style — remote luxury and glorified street fashion. Jean Louis Scherrer shows lush chiffon evening dresses rippled into thousands of pleats to wear under a bead-encrusted chiffon jacket. Karl Lagerfeld's shock tactics at Chanel today will include Hell's Angels strutting about in black tulle bomber jackets and chain-strapped boots. But even with such revved-up details as Mr Lagerfeld's iridescent embroideries — cut-outs of 3D hologram film hand-stitched on to a lilac ballerina skirt — couture in 1991 could not be more haute.

At Lanvin, Claude Montana's striped polo shirt turns out to be made of ostrich feathers. At Chanel the tulle-trimmed jacket is made by deconstructing the cloth, with threads pulled from the tweed making the matching speckled trim.

So what if Mr Lagerfeld has a penchant for thigh boots worn with everything and criss-crosses every seam on a Chanel jacket with strips of black vinyl? He has succeeded in demystifying the secret traditions of the couture atelier and applies its craftsmanship to make the sort of padded parkas and duffel coats that the young want to throw over their leggings. The young, of course, cannot afford to wear couture, but every camera click at the show today rings up another sale of a chain-handled Chanel bag or a bottle of Coco or Chanel No.5.

There are only 2,000 couture customers in the world. Many houses, even busy establishments such as Chanel and Saint Laurent, sell fewer than 100 pieces from a collection in any one season. Hubert de Givenchy, who celebrates his fortieth anniversary in couture with a retrospective exhibition in October at the Musée Galliera, and Emanuel Ungaro, who is celebrating some of M. Givenchy's thunder by marking his 25th anniversary a month earlier, both have healthy couture lines. There are the clothes worn at smart

gatherings by the real customers, the ones who actually pay, albeit at a discount, rather than just borrowing the clothes for publicity.

While the finishing touches were being put to Gianfranco Ferré's Dior collection that was shown yesterday the designer was already working on the Dior ready-to-wear line for spring 1992. Sales of Dior off the peg doubled in the past year, although the company's profits dropped by 29.5 per cent.

Signor Ferré showed suits dressed up with the dramatic flourish of a bronze leather stole or a voluminous shot taffeta shawl. But the cut is simpler and he has banished the pretty pussy-cat bows that had become one of his signature details. A tortoiseshell coat made entirely of brown sequins is lined with fur. A bouncy satin parka is quilted to look like crocodile skin. One red and black dog's-tooth tweed suit has a matching blouse underneath, a trompe-l'œil of embroidered dog's-tooth checks.

Of Dior's customer list, 32 per cent is from Saudi Arabia. Appropriately, the new Dior fragrance due

out in September is called Dune. Dior is then following the lead set by Saint Laurent two years ago and is going public; the company will be floated on the Bourse by the end of the year. Meanwhile Bernard Arnault, the president of Dior and chairman of LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy), has opened Paris's latest lunch spot, L'Avenue, on the corner opposite the Dior headquarters in the Avenue Montaigne.

The bohemian spirit of the south runs through Christian Lacroix's collection of mannish tweed jackets and jaunty cropped trousers banded in gold, all worn with a flat cap, a gold or black straw boater or a curly-brimmed Camargue cow-herd's hat. But this is Lacroix. The gypsy is costumed in hand-painted velvet and the full gingham skirt is silk. A day sequined bolero is worn over a lace-encrusted chiffon T-shirt.

The collection brought together the familiar references that run through all M. Lacroix's work and which will be documented in his "scrapbook", written with his wife



Left: lamé jacket with brocade skirt, Ungaro. Right: tweed cardigan and pleated skirt, Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel



Françoise, to be published in December by Thames & Hudson.

Gerard Pipart at Nina Ricci designs the perfect couture coat that swings perkily from a neat round shoulder line in thick pink wool. He cuts a series of new looking safari jackets in satin. A Ricci boutique opened in Moscow last month, coinciding with the opening of a new production of Cinderella for which M. Pipart created the ballet costumes. For those unable to be at the Kremlin, the Ricci collection ended with a corps de ballet of strapless ballerina dresses in pastel tulle sprinkled with silver embroidery.

Pierre Cardin, who was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur this year and an honorary ambassador for Unesco, has also just come back from Moscow, where he staged a fashion show in Red Square. In Paris yesterday he showed a collection built around the body suit, ribbed for day under leather tunics and skirts and in bronze sequins for night. It is a look very much in tune

with the street styles of the Nineties but M. Cardin can claim to have invented the body suit in his heyday in the Sixties.

The Chambre Syndicale list of 21 designers is boosted by three Italians who have defected from Rome to join their Paris peers. Mila Schön opened the shows last weekend with a typically ladylike collection of collarless coats and matching suits in pale Neapolitan ice-cream colours with all the traditional glamour of fox fur cuffs and pretty hats. If Signora Schön dresses the couture mama, then Gianni Versace, who also showed the first day, dresses her wayward daughter, who is poured into a studded skintight dress with a pair of cuffed satin boots that reach the thigh an inch or two below the micro short Versace hemline. Key pattern borders, echoing the friezes in his new shop on the Faubourg St Honoré, on gold studded brocade and brown chiffon pleated skirts turned Signor Versace's streetwise, sexy line into a suitably glamorous version of the costume of a Roman gladiator.



Left: sequined jacket, Lacroix. Above: draped evening suit in red silk, Gianfranco Ferré for Dior



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## Defying the years with never a wrinkle

There's an awful lot of Panamas in Ecuador, the home of the classic hot-weather hat. But there is only one place to find the uncrushable fino



The top hat: the Panama has adorned the heads of, from left, the people of Ecuador, Winston Churchill, Jane Seymour, Clark Gable and Warren Beatty

The Panama, classic of the hat world, has come into its own in the environment-erased Nineties. Made from natural toquilla straw, the hat gives a "back-to-nature" look. The very cream of the cream can be folded in half down the trademark central ridge, rolled into a cone tight enough to pass through a wedding ring, and then opened out again with no sign of a crease. They are as smooth as silk to touch, and as light as parchment to wear.

Herbert Johnson, the New Bond Street hatter by appointment to Her Majesty the Queen, has doubled his turnover of Panama hats in Europe since last year. Anthony Marangos, the company's managing director, puts the Panama's popularity down to its "creative feel and beauty". But Panamas do not come from Panama. They come from the South American republic of Ecuador, and are so named because Panama was the main trading post for Ecuadorian goods in the last century.

Most Panama hats come from the foothill town of Cuenca. But the Rolls-Royce of the Panamas is the Montecristi fino — named after its town of origin in the western lowlands and the fine strands of straw from which it is made.

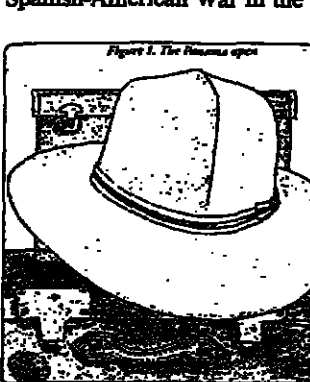


Figure 1. The Panama open

In England, a good-quality hat from Cuenca starts at about £45, but for a Montecristi fino expect to pay anything between £200 and £1,000. Part of that cost will be for trimmings and blocking (stretching and steaming the hat into shape) — refinements added in this country. In Montecristi a top-grade fino costs a mere £35.

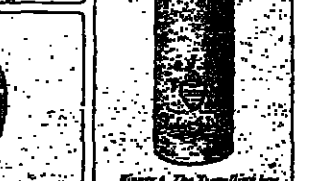
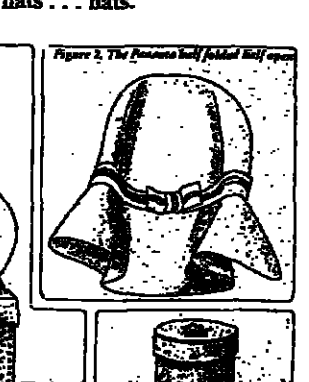


Figure 2. The Panama half folded half open

And so it was in search of a bargain and the fino maker

par excellence, Rosendo Delgado, that I took the half-hour, 9p bus journey from Ecuador's port town of Manta to Montecristi.

Such is the strength of toquilla straw that a Panama hat can last 20 years. The straw is made from the boiled and flayed shoots of the eponymous plant. Although toquilla grows as far north as Panama and as far south as Bolivia, nowhere are conditions so perfect for its growth as in Ecuador's coastal lowlands: the soil is fertile and moist, the cooling onshore winds from the Pacific Ocean's Humboldt current provide a perfect temperature and taller plants shade the toquilla from the sun's harsh rays.

The Panama hat became fashionable after the American government ordered 30,000 for soldiers heading for the Caribbean to fight the Spanish-American War in the

mid 19th century. But the Ecuadorians have had an uphill struggle to convince the world that they export more than bananas. At one time their consuls were instructed to attach stickers to all correspondence stating that "Panama hats are made in Ecuador". But the consul in San Francisco complained that people only remarked: "I see they are now making Panama hats in Ecuador."

Montecristi is also famous as the birthplace of General Eloy Alfaro, leader of the country's liberal revolution in 1895. Tom Miller, the author of *The Panama Hat Trail*, points out that the Panama hat trade indirectly helped fund the liberal revolution.

The Alfaro family used their money, in part, from exporting toquilla straw hats. All the roads in Montecristi fan out from the colonial church in the main square, including Rocafuerte Street, where Señor Delgado has his workshop. Two women sat by the workshop's open doorway, weaving the fine strands of the toquilla straw on two half-finished finos. Outside hung the sign "Manufacturas de Sombreros — Finos Montecristi", with a picture of a Panama in one corner.

Inside it was a Panama paradise. They were piled high against walls, on chairs and table, with traditional curved or wide brims, finely or thickly woven. Señor Delgado must have been approaching his sixties. His manner was dignified — as befits a maker of Panama hats — despite his missing teeth. He spoke little, and seemed unimpressed that I had come from Europe to see him — but then so have many others. He brought out hat after hat until I found the perfect weave, size and style. I settled for a £26 fino — one and a half times what most Ecuadorians earn in a month.

He looked insulted when I told him that I also wanted to buy my father a Panama to wear when he did the gardening, but then I suppose it was the equivalent of wearing an Yves Saint Laurent evening dress to watch television. I settled for a thicker weave

Panama at £12. But it passed the Panama test of being rolled into a cone without crushing — although not fine enough to go through a wedding ring — and it merited the balswood box stencilled with the Ecuadorian flag and the words "Montecristi fino".

There used to be thousands of weavers making Montecristi. But the finos have been undercut by fakes from the Orient; many weavers have either turned to the land or to making baskets, place-mats and coloured sun hats, which are more profitable and less time consuming. A fino can take three months to make.

But the British hat designer

GEORGINA POWER

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## SCULPTURE

## Colossus finds a congenial home

Richard Cork on a bold and imaginative addition to the roll-call of good outdoor sculpture in Britain

Sloping down a green hill towards Canterbury and its cathedral far below, the grounds of Kent University provide a spectacular site for sculpture. Stephen Bann, a professor at Kent, has wanted for years to install a suitably monumental work there. He began by writing to Henry Moore, who produced many of his finest early carvings near Canterbury. The great man was enthusiastic, but the plan came to nothing because Moore died soon afterwards. But the foundation he started in his name offered to help fund an alternative commission. So Bann approached a sculptor of his own generation, Stephen Cox, and asked him to mark Kent's silver jubilee with a large-scale image for the brow of the hill.

Having begun his career as an abstract sculptor in the minimalist tradition, Cox then discovered Italy and developed a more figurative approach. Subsequent trips to India and Egypt further transformed his work, and the multi-cultural strains in Cox's current art give his university carving an absorbing complexity.

From the road below, the two-piece granite colossus is reminiscent of a mysterious megalith. Stonehenge came to mind as I walked up towards the sculpture. Although the modernist architecture of Keynes College is visible behind, Cox's *Hymn* seems far more in tune with the antiquity of the distant city.

After a while, though, bodily references become apparent as well. Thrusting into the horizontal slab above, the upright stone carries a phallic charge. The entire carving takes on an erotic, perhaps even provocative, meaning. Where the two pieces meet, the granite is far more sensuous and smoothly finished. The ease with which both parts fit together contrasts with the otherwise rough-hewn surface.

Walk round to the side of the sculpture, however, and a very different identity asserts itself. The



Mysterious megalith: Stephen Cox's *Hymn*, in the grounds of the University of Kent at Canterbury. The granite work, four metres high, was photographed by the sculptor

two stones seem to merge in a single mass, its profile reminiscent of the enigmatic figures found on Easter Island in the Pacific. Cox delights in juggling with alternative readings: from here the top section looks like a craggy head. But not for long. Viewed from the back, *Hymn* sheds these associations and relies on plain statement. The two ochre stones have been left raw here, as a reminder of their primordial state in the quarry at Madras. Flat and almost untouched by the chisel, they emphasise how carefully

wrought is the rest of the sculpture. Move to the front again, and Cox's manipulation of his material becomes clearer. Even its most rugged areas now appear to be the result of deliberate working, which gives it a far greater forcefulness than the back. The dark oil which he finally applied to the front suggests anointment, a ritual Cox must often have witnessed in India. The sculptors who worked on *Hymn* in Madras, before it was shipped to England for completion, spend most of their time producing

temple carvings. Art and religion are closely intertwined in Indian culture, and the pouring of oil gives the sculpture a religious aura. Its resemblance to a cross becomes, inescapable, strengthening its relationship with the cathedral. All the same, *Hymn* is no more of a Christian than a Hindu image. It refuses to be pinned down to a specific faith, whether of East or West. Cox acknowledges them both, while retaining the right to make his carving profane as well as sacred. At once sexual and spir-

itual, it gazes down over Canterbury like a benevolent presence. *Hymn* occupies its site with an air of inevitability. Cox has an instinctive grasp of the best way to place art in a given setting. Even in the temporary context of his new show at DEGW (an architect's office in King's Cross), a 50-part carving called *Tanmatras* looks tailor-made for the wall it inhabits. Ranged in rows of ten across the white surface, the work contains nothing but granite heads partially or wholly covered in oil. Each face

emphasises only one aspect of the features: eyes, nose, ears and mouth take turns to assume a dominant role. They ought to appear bizarre and deformed. But the confidence with which they enliven their space is oddly reassuring. Like *Hymn*, they give out a feeling of serenity, poise and ancient wisdom.

Stephen Cox Recent Sculpture. DEGW, 8 Christen Street, London N1 (Information: 071-701 3861). Mon-Fri, 9-6 pm, until September 28.

## BRIEFING

## My park is bigger

AS LUCIANO Pavarotti prepares for his encounter next Tuesday with the thousands in Hyde Park, news comes that his great rival, Plácido Domingo, will sing in Windsor Great Park on September 7. The Spanish tenor will round off the Guards Polo Club Autumn Festival with a concert accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra. Also performing is Julia Migenes, last seen (in the distance, at least) in *Tosca* at Ears Court. Unlike Pavarotti's Hyde Park event, this is by no means a free event: tickets are from £35 to £195.

## King stays on

A LEGEND much beloved of theatre managers, "Extended due to popular demand", is rarely used by museums. But "Henry VIII at Greenwich" — the show with which the National Maritime Museum is celebrating the 500th anniversary of Henry's birth — is the exception. Since it opened on May 1 it has clocked up more than 150,000 visitors, and has now been extended for an extra month, to September 29.

## Last chance...

ANNE Sophie von Otter's performances with the Royal Opera in the title-role of Rossini's version of the *Cinderella* story, *La Cenerentola*, have confirmed the international status of this statuesque blonde with the creamy voice. A great evening of lyricism: final performance at Covent Garden (071-240 1066) tonight.

ARTS REVIEWS  
Theatre, Radio and Music  
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## LITERATURE

## Somebody still cares about the nobodies

An unlikely Victorian hero is celebrating his hundredth birthday. Clive Davis reports

Charles Pooter would have been most gratified. A century after he first set pen to paper, his words of wisdom are hailed as a classic of English literature. "The Laurels", his fictional home in Holloway is almost as famous as Hardy's cottage. The humble City clerk has been transformed into an Eminent Victorian.

Nobody expected him to meet with quite so much success. As Christopher Matthews explains in his introduction to the centenary edition of *The Diary of a Nobody*, the book began as a modest series of domestic sketches in *Punch* in 1888. The entries ran intermittently for just a year and, parodies of memoirs being extremely common at the time, they might well have been forgotten altogether. It was not until 1892 that J.W. Arrowsmith, the publisher of *Three Men in a Boat*, brought out a revised and expanded version of Pooter's misadventures.

Pooter's creators were the brothers George and Weedon Grossmith. George wrote most or all of the text, his younger brother provided the illustrations. A former police court reporter, George had embarked on a successful theatrical career, eventually becoming a leading Savoyard

(he was the original Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe* and Ko-Ko in *The Mikado*). Weedon had been a painter, and later worked in theatre management. Matthew points out that neither man regarded *The Diary* as anything more than a pleasant diversion. "The comedy is quintessentially English. As a respectable member of the lower middle-classes, Pooter devotes his energies to living a genteel life on a slender income. After a day at the office, he loves to draw the curtains and read *Exchange and Mart* to his long-suffering wife, Carrie. The only cloud on the horizon, apart from impertinent tradesmen and the struggle to make ends meet, is his son Lupin, a ne'er-do-well with ambitions to make a quick killing in the financial markets."

In 1896 Keith Waterhouse devised a successful stage adaptation, *Mr and Mrs Pooter*. The play also drew on Waterhouse's earlier pastiche, *Mr Pooter's Diary*. Michael Williams and Judi Dench played the roles to perfection. Waterhouse first came across *The Diary* in his teens. He now re-reads it every year. Part of the appeal, he thinks, lies in the steady accumulation of mundane domestic detail: "It's beautifully observed," he says. "If you want



Ne'er-do-well son: Lupin Pooter, drawn by Weedon Grossmith for his brother's *The Diary of a Nobody*

to know about how people lived in that period, it's all there." But is there not an element of snobbery in the humour? Critics of the book find it patronising, if not cruel. In his introduction Christopher Matthews concedes that the accusation may be true, but only up to a point. He responds with a quotation from an earlier pre-

face. Of course, he is a prize prat, but that is what I love about the book: that you have this person narrating the story who is constantly making a fool of himself, without realising it."

If the Grossmiths were alive in the 1990s, where would they find Pooter now? Waterhouse thinks that Holloway is out of the question: the area is too gentrified. Charles and Carrie would be haunting DIY warehouses and writing letters to the local newspapers. Meanwhile, Waterhouse is intrigued by a discovery he made recently while browsing through the original *Diary* entries in *Punch*. Pooter, it seems, may have been married before. The proof apparently lies in a reference to a first wife, which was excised from the text of the book.

So what happened to this mysterious lady? Waterhouse suspects that she may have been buried under the floorboards. After all these years, there may be more to Pooter than meets the eye.

Like Waterhouse, Leigh regularly dips into *The Diary*. His wife Alison Steadman is another devotee. On the film set, Leigh and his cameraman share their own private catchphrase: "Carrie roared!" "That criticism about cruelty is one that my work receives too," Leigh says. "It's the kind of comment that comes from people who don't know the territory. You have to know where Pooter comes

*'The humble City clerk has been transformed into an Eminent Victorian'*

## OPERA

## Finding freedom with the Don

Olaf Bär, singing again at Glyndebourne after a four-year gap, talks to Hilary Finch

In 1988, the Dresden-born baritone Olaf Bär was weighed down by two apparently insoluble problems: how to stop critics and public comparing him with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and how to get his girlfriend a visa to leave East Germany.

Three years on, critical opinion has become both more cautious and more discriminating as Bär's light, lyric baritone has begun to etch its own clear profile; and Bär finds himself with a travelling companion once again. This summer, his contract at the Dresden Staatsoper expires; his imminent *Don Giovanni* performances at Glyndebourne thus herald his new era of freelance freedom.

Bär's personal freedom, though — like that of his country — was won at a price. The events of 1989-90 took their toll. A summer of cancellations last year started rumours which ranged from concern at reported throat nodules to alternating indignation and admiration at the thought that Bär — potentially the finest baritone of the 1990s — had yelled himself hoarse at the Berlin Wall. In fact, he never entered the city. Too many trips for passport paperwork, and a dislike of centralisation, have left him with a horror of the new Hauptstadt.

What did happen was that Bär, returning from a tour of Australia in October 1989, found civil war fermenting on his doorstep, and colleagues at the Staatsoper joining massive street demonstrations. Every night, after the curtain-call at the opera house, the entire cast, orchestra and backstage

team would gather on the stage and Bär, among others, would read out a paper demanding that the government should resign. It happened in every theatre in East Germany, every night, long after Honecker himself had been ousted. There was little sleep, daily political arguments with the Intendant, and a tour of Japan and the US coming up in the January during which the Wall came down.

Bär lost the desire and the ability to sing for two months, and found it difficult to begin again. Through the first months of 1990 it was two weeks on, two weeks off, alternating teaching and coaching with osteopathy and massage. The goal was 1991 and Mozart Year. Bär bounced back again as Papageno at Covent Garden in March. This summer has seen successful recitals and concerts.

His previous Don Giovanni have all been at Dresden, and in German. The relatively small space at Glyndebourne, the long rehearsal period, and the young cast (both Leporello and Don Ottavio are making their debuts in this revival of Peter Hall's production) make this an ideal platform for Bär to explore anew the protagonist of Mozart's ambivalent *dramma giocoso*.

The Don is not, for Bär, the dark, saturnine creature of one or two of his Sussex prede-

cessors. "He wouldn't be able to sing the duet with Zerlina, or the Canzonetta, if he were not truly *zärtlich* — how do you say it? — full of true tenderness and affection. I feel he really does love each woman for that moment. And women follow him because he represents so many possibilities, so many colours of love. He enjoys life, and has the means to do so. He is living in *kontrapunkte* to the boring, mediocre social life around him."

Bär's only remaining fear now is the supper interval. He remembers it from *Capriccio* in 1987. "This hour and a half, it's unbelievable! It may be interesting for the public, but, oh, to warm up, fall down, then warm up again, and then to smell all that champagne and to find the audience in quite a different mood for the second act: well, it's certainly not easy."

Don Giovanni opens at Glyndebourne (0273 541111) on Sunday, July 28.

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André Derain: *Landscape with Colours*, 1908. National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. The John Hay Whitney Collection. © ADAGP Paris/DACS London 1991.

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**'The humble City clerk has been transformed into an Eminent Victorian'**

Olaf Bär: only the supper interval is worrying him



The local council funding mess will be highlighted again as MPs debate new seven-band property charges, Tony Travers writes

## Taxing prospects for the Tories

Local government finance is in more of a mess than it looks. The BCCI debacle is further evidence of just how ill-starred council funding has become. Poll tax arrears are mounting up. The Hammonds and Fulham swaps muddle is no nearer being sorted out. But worst of all for the government, its new council tax is edging slowly towards Parliament. Once it arrives, the whole ghastly matter of how we pay for council services will lurch back into the headlines.

Fresh publicity for local taxation is bad enough. Offering MPs a free hand in amending Michael Heseltine's council tax is just short of an election, potentially suicidal. Opportunities for division and acrimony within Conservative ranks will multiply. The difficulty for government whips is that council tax, unlike the community charge, offers backbenchers endless scope to make divisive changes to the legislation without affecting the principle of the tax. (Incidentally, those of us who have, in deference to political balance, continued to call the present tax the community

charge feel a bit let down to find, in the index to Nicholas Ridley's autobiography, the entry "Community charge: see poll tax".)

The legislation to introduce council tax will be included in the Queen's speech. This will presumably give shape to the proposals published recently, including a seven-band property tax based on capital value, with discounts for single adult households. The environment secretary has given the impression that he wants to stick to his published ideas. Ministers will, as ever, discourage Tory MPs from putting down amendments.

But they will be encouraged to put down amendments by their local councillors and constituencies. As with the move to community charge, the council tax reform will produce millions of winners and losers. There will be a big shift of local tax burden away

from the north of England and on to the south while, in parallel, resources shift from multi-adult households and on to single-person homes.

While the community charge legislation was passing into law, backbenchers found it difficult to vote against it or to change it. There was no middle way with poll tax: there was either a flat-rate tax or there was not. Council tax, by contrast, is susceptible to almost infinite amendment. As the legislation goes through Parliament, MPs will have opportunities to change the tax so that as many as possible of their constituents are not damaged by it.

MPs' grudges against the council tax are of different and, inevitably, inconsistent varieties. First, many backbenchers with constituencies in the southeast have found that much of their electorate lives in top band property. Being able to boast to



Which band for The Laurels, Mr Footers' house in Holloway?

relatives from the north about being a "Band G" household is one thing, paying an extra £500 a year for the privilege is another matter. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has calculated that differences between the existing system and the new one will

mean that local taxpayers in Manchester will be more than £100 per household better off under council tax, while those in Westminster will lose more than £150 per household.

Amendments are likely to be put down which would increase the number of bands from seven to nine or more. Tory MPs from affluent areas of the south will want to try and push more people into lower bands, thus restricting the top band to mansions and castles. There is also a lobby to move from national bands to regional ones. The Heseltine proposals envisage a single banding arrangement for the whole of England, with separate ones for Wales and Scotland. As a result, two-bedroom semis in north London find themselves in the same band as substantial detached houses in Yorkshire. As with increasing the number of bands, the move to regional banding

would be easily achieved by a simple amendment in the Commons, and without threatening the principles of council tax.

Other easily-argued amendments could also strike terror into the hearts of government whips. MPs could go on to change the basis of banding from capital values (favoured by Mr Heseltine) to, say, rebuilding costs. The latter base would be far better for the south than the north. Again, the principle of a property-based banded tax is maintained, but a different base chosen.

Most difficult of all for the government will be the battle over discounts for single-adult households. This 25 per cent reduction is the last element of the poll tax, and is intended to ensure that the mythical old lady will pay slightly less in council tax than the household with four strapping adults living next door. The greater the reduction for single

adults, the more like a poll tax the new system becomes.

The speeches in the Commons can already be imagined. "Of course, I support the principle of the council tax. It is just that I feel it would work better with nine bands instead of seven..." or "I strongly support the idea of discounts for single adult households, indeed, I would go further and set the relief at 50 per cent..." Council tax can be supported and opposed at the same time.

Competitive amendments are inevitable, given that changes which benefit government backbenchers in the south of England will damage those in the north, and vice versa. With recession biting deep in the southeast, and local election results in 1990 and 1991 being poor for the Conservatives in the home counties, ministers will come under backbench pressure to stop the switch of resources to the north. Fears of a reverse Ribble Valley effect are growing. If ever there was an argument for a November general election, the council tax is surely it.

The author is a research director at the London School of Economics

## Welcome to the hotel from hell

Ben Macintyre visits a macabre living memorial of east Germany's past

There is only one hotel in the former East German city of Weimar, home to Goethe and Schiller and now a leading tourist attraction, where you might find a vacancy: the Hotel Ettersburg, more easily recognisable as the converted SS officers' barracks of the former Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald.

For a mere 40 marks (about £3.55) you can, if you have the stomach for it, sleep in the same beds as the SS butchers of Buchenwald, use their washstands, eat in their dining room faintly redolent of boiled cabbage, or look through the smeared windows to the camp crematorium where these same men burnt the bodies of the 65,000 innocent people they murdered between 1937 and 1945.

Earlier this month Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian chancellor, publicly admitted Austrian guilt in the Holocaust, a sign that the country is belatedly passing through the catharsis of historical self-knowledge — *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* — the cumbersome, but loaded German word.

Hotel Ettersburg is macabre proof that in eastern Germany the process has barely started. Buchenwald was turned into a place of communist pilgrimage by the former East German government: the camp, it was claimed, witnessed a communist-inspired rebellion against the Nazi guards (the inmates did resist their tormentors at the time the allies liberated the camp in April 1945) and it was the scene of the martyrdom of Ernst Thälmann, chairman of the German Communist party. The SS barracks were subsequently converted into the hotel for the use of party apparatchiks visiting what had become a shrine to "the heroes of anti-fascist resistance". The question of taste was subsumed by the need to service the ideology.

Even today, the fact that thousands of Jews perished at Buchenwald is but fleetingly mentioned in the camp brochure, and the fact that Buchenwald was used by the

communists as a concentration camp for German prisoners after the war is not mentioned at all.

Hotel Ettersburg is symbolic of the way the former East Germany obscured the horrors of its past by using communist propaganda. West Germany was tarred as the heir to the Third Reich. It was only in April 1990 that the first democratically elected MPs of the GDR publicly accepted East German responsibility for the Holocaust, and asked the world's Jewry for forgiveness. But it will take far longer for that official view to filter down to the east German people. For the first time east German citizens are being forced to look at their own history in the face: one result is the recent upsurge of crude neo-fascism.

More widespread, however, is the people of Weimar, a deep moral confusion. Unprotected by communist propaganda, the citizens of Weimar have been forced to look at the death camp in the hills overlooking their city for what it was, and what, in their hearts, they knew it to be: a monstrous crime with which most of them connived. On the city's walls graffiti (unknown under the communists), both Nazi and anti-Nazi, reflect their bewilderment.

In recognition, however, that the death camps have a memorial and a psychological role to play quite outside the requirements of communist ideology, plans were shelved yesterday to build a shopping centre on the site of Ravensbrück concentration camp, west of Berlin. Heinrich Enderlein, an east German minister, promised to halt construction, saying that the building of a car showroom and a tax office in such a place would distract from the camp's symbolic importance.

Even so, business is sure to be brisk at the Hotel Ettersburg this summer, as visitors crowd into a city where tourism, truth and fact are all equally in their infancy.

## Magna Carta for our times

Jonathan Clark assesses the historical weight behind a new document, the prime minister's Citizen's Charter

Against these petty tyrannies a Citizen's Charter framed as a specific list of entitlement, performance standards, provisions for accountability and procedures for redress stands every chance of success. It falls within a long tradition of documents which have vastly improved quality of English life by affirming concrete liberties, not abstract freedoms.

Chief among these was, of course, Magna Carta itself, granted by King John in 1215, reissued by Henry III in 1225 and printed as the first of the English statutes.

In American political culture this document has achieved a peculiar status, as if it validated the euphoric metaphysics of 1776: "We hold these truths to be self-evident..."

In English legal culture, by contrast, Magna Carta was valued for its concrete specificity. Even its title was probably adopted to distinguish it from a smaller charter of 1217 regulating liberties in forests, not to affirm some pre-eminent nobility of purpose.

Nor was there anything special about a solemn charter promising good government at the outset of a reign: Henry I, Stephen and Henry II had all issued them before King John was belatedly forced to do likewise. Nor, once passed, was Magna Carta inviolable: many of its detailed provisions were omitted from later charters or overridden by subsequent statutes without the English feeling their liberties challenged, just as other specific reforms, like the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, drew on specific provisions of Magna Carta.



Three million signed: the People's Charter of 1838 failed, despite help from Paine (above), because its aims were revolution not reform

It was the same specific quality which gave force to England's "Bill of Rights", by which the "Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and Settling the Succession of the Crown" of 1689 was soon known. This gave statutory expression to the Declaration of Rights, drawn up by parliament in the turmoil of the Glorious Revolution. Yet this declaration originally contained two lists of old rights which had been violated by James II and needed to be reaffirmed, and on new rights

newly sought, which would need new legislation.

This second list was dropped during parliament's deliberations as being far too extreme: the Bill of Rights is largely a vindication of specific existing liberties, and as such it worked, for example in its provision "that the Freedom of Speech and Debates or Proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or Place out of Parliament". Where the Bill of Rights allowed itself the luxury of

imprecise generalisation — "That Election of Members of Parliament ought to be free" — it surrendered its grip on the real world, as the electoral politics of Estuaries will prove.

Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights gradually became revered in England because they worked, not because they held out broad promises. A less happy fate awaited the founding document of Chartism, the People's Charter of 1838, and its famous six points: equal electorate areas, universal suffrage, payment of MPs, the abolition of property qualifications, secret ballot and annual parliaments. This was a document of revolution, not reform. Taken together, its demands embodied the dream of a transformed social order, going far beyond the reforms of 1832, and summed up the abstracting, generalising and homogenising philosophies of 1776 and 1789.

Despairing of parliament, the Chartists attempted to realise their vision through an elected convention of delegates that would supersede the House of Commons by mass action; and by a general strike.

Chartists were right who saw that what they really wanted — social transformation — could only be obtained by armed revolution and not piecemeal legislation. When their bluff was finally called in 1848, the "year of revolutions", Chartism was fatally compromised. The Charter thereafter enjoyed little of the sanctity of Magna Carta or the Bill of Rights. Although some of the Charter's provisions later became law, they arrived separately, as specific reforms, and not as interlocking parts of a formula for a new world.

The 1991 Citizen's Charter contains no promise of social transformation, nor is it presented as a break with Conservative thinking since 1979. Wisely, Number Ten discourages talk of "Majorism". But from its insight that the world is best improved through a long list of small and carefully defined adjustments, this charter is well entitled to its ancient and honourable name.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

...and moreover

## CHARLES NEVIN

You know the feeling. We all do. The awkward silence can strike at any time. Just as conversation seems about to take flight, to soar on a breeze of anecdote and a gale of laughter, it stops dead. You smile amiably, lengthily, into your glass, fumble for the cigarettes you gave up five years ago. But you can think of nothing to say, nothing at all. Sometimes you know the moment is coming, but you can do nothing, you are held paralysed because you know it is coming.

Not more. Help is at hand. Today, in association with my friend Dr Dai Logue, author of *Talking is my Business* and *A Word in Your Ear*, I am proud to present a selection of conversational gambits suitable for all social occasions.

Let us start with a few "don'ts". The most important thing to remember in this country is that people do not enjoy talking to one another. Save your conversation for when you need it: silence is perfectly acceptable in the home, the queue, and on all public transport; in taxis, you have only to listen. Never talk in a lift. Stare at the floor indicator with a fixed half-smile. Do not hum along to the taped music. The opportunities for small talk that remain are limited, and, with luck and judgment, can be handled fairly smoothly.

On the whole, I agree with him. Dr Dai advises against the weather as an opener. This is because "Nice weather for ducks" and, more rarely, "Warm enough for you?" invite only the merest of responses and contrib-

ute to a rising panic about what to say next.

"What job do you do?" had become acceptable, but Dr Dai now cautions against this, too, as in today's circumstances it is quite probable that your conversationalist does not have one or is an estate agent. Alternatively, he or she might be the chairman of a privatised undertaking and thus embarrassed to talk about it.

Never forget, says Dr Dai, that the purpose of the question is to elicit a long, rambling reply, so that you have merely to nod regularly and smile continuously. "Where do you live?" used to be splendid, because you would hear all about how much the house had been bought for and then be invited to guess what it was worth. This no longer happens (cf estate agents). Much better now to open with the trusty "Come far". Routes, the state of the traffic/trains, the lack of a proper transport policy and the Channel Tunnel will follow without delay. When the conversation gets on to rabbits, be prepared to launch your next gambit, "Been away yet?"

By now you are getting on famously together, but do not be lulled: the awkward silence is never far away. One moment you are listening to the mess which Peter Mayle has made of Provence, the echoing simplicity of the frescoes in the duomo, or off-season, self-catering, mislaid opportunities in north Portugal, and the next, nothing. That is why it is so important to have some questions that were prepared earlier.

However, avoid films (having one described scene by scene can be most dispiriting, even if you are only half-listening). And, warns Dr Dai, never ever mention Monty Python. Take care, too, to match the interest. Here is a rough guide. Men: suits — business and politics (avoiding all reference to Lloyd's, any bank, and how easy it is to misplace letters); tweed and corduroy — country pursuits, arts and rugby union; tight, patterned pullover — golf, motor racing, whereabouts of country pubs, track suits — sound investments, the environment, armed robbery. Women: floral dresses — dogs and horses; anything else — anything else.

Here goes then. The questions are in no particular order, and the categories should be obvious. "Did you know that 177 people are born every minute?" "Do you think Julian Barnes has blown it with this new one?" "I think Villars are still worth watching under Big Ron, even if the boy Platt has gone." "Potatoes are late." "A depletion of 20 per cent in the ozone layer will last for a minimum of five years before it gets better, and there is no guarantee that it will." "Spain looks a bit dodgy, John." "Blesseddale's familiar obsessions crowded out any coherent message." "Shoot at all?"

Finally, escape. Do not worry about that. Use our questions and you will soon grow more than used to that handy phrase: "But you must not let me monopolise you." So there you are: Dr Dai says good luck and good talking to you!

## Progress chartered

Great, and perhaps small minds think alike, it seems. The world and its uncle were yesterday queuing to claim credit for John Major's "big idea". Downing Street insisted that the prime minister first began promoting a citizen's charter three years ago. However, the archives show that Major first used the phrase citizen's charter as recently as March 1991.

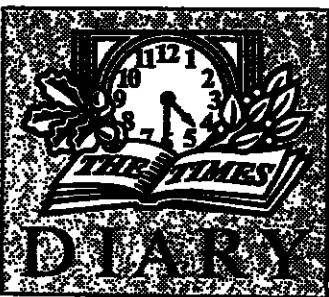
Labour, inevitably, insists that Neil Kinnock was first to the idea, which it says appeared in a policy document, *A Year in Service*, in 1985. The Liberal Democrats also claim responsibility. "Paddy Ashdown wrote about it in his book, *Citizen's Britain* two years ago," says his office.

Downing Street denies plagiarism. "The phrase emerged at a brain-storming session," says a spokesman. Those present included Judith Chaplin, Sarah



Hogg and Nicholas True, Major's speech writer.

The think-tanks were also claiming their piece of the action. The Institute of Economic Affairs insists that its 1991 paper, *Government by Contract*, was the key. But Dr Madsen Pirie, president of the



Adam Smith Institute, says the IEA picked it up from his organisation. Neither attended the summit Major held on the topic earlier this year at Chequers, but David Willetts of the Centre for Policy Studies, did. Diplomatically he says: "We were all involved."

Yet others claim an even earlier genesis. The National Consumer Council says its 1979 paper, *Consumers and the State*, was responsible for the idea. "We may not have used the title, but we called for a contractual arrangement between the customer and nationalised industries." Topping them all, Lord Young of Darlington, founder of the Consumers' Association, lays claim to the concept in his maiden speech in the Lords in April 1978. The peer, who also drafted Labour's 1945 manifesto, is magnanimous. "I was the first person to suggest a code covering all consumer rights. But I don't mind John Major borrowing the idea. It was a rather good one."

## Pidgin of peace

Much has been made of charismatic Christianity's fondness for speaking in tongues. But what of pidgin, as spoken in Papua New Guinea? It may not quite be a modern miracle, but in preparation for his visit next month Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, proposes to master the local patois in a single afternoon. The arch-

bishop's two week visit is to celebrate the centenary of the Anglican church in Papua New Guinea and he is due to take his lesson in pidgin at Lambeth Palace on Thursday. "It should be enough to enable him to to preside at a local service," says a spokesman.

But, sadly, not enough to handle a press conference, it seems. The disappointment of religious journalists the archbishop will receive his tuition immediately after his briefing on the visit, nearly depriving them of colourful copy as they sought to put the archbishop's newly acquired pidgin to the test.

● Six minutes scarcely seems long enough to bore the critics, but Harold Pinter has found it more than enough. His latest "play", *The New World Order*, premiered over the weekend at the Royal Court, dragged so badly for one critic that he was convinced the six minutes was actually eight. Either way, Pinter's play is not about to enter the record books as the shortest ever staged. Alongside Samuel Beckett's *Quad*, premiered in Oxford in 1970, Pinter's latest seems positively epic. Beckett's work clocked in at a precise 60 seconds.

## Calling the tune

Sir Yehudi Menuhin was disappointed last week that Mikhail Gorbachev did not accompany his wife, Raisa, when she visited the violinist. Menuhin handed the Soviet first lady a letter addressed to her husband in Menuhin's own hand, urging the Soviet leader to quicken the pace of reform and distance himself from the Communist party. "I think Gorbachev can value a friend who advises him in an honest way, someone who writes almost as a fellow Russian," says Menuhin.

To compensate for Gorbachev's non-appearance, Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador, sent a

crate of Russian champagne the day before the meeting, while John Major, as the G7 summit host, wrote personally to Menuhin apologising for Gorbachev's inability to accompany his wife. Pinter is the true legislator of the world, Shelley suggested. Yet it is clearly violinists who call the tune.

## Name your price?

War has broken out among London's auction houses over the potential business on offer from Lloyd's names seeking immediate realisation of capital assets. Christie's has mailed its clients offering advice to those who need to flog the family silver in a hurry.

"You may have an urgent need for funds, e.g. to pay inheritance tax bills, school fees, medical bills, or calls on Lloyd's names," says the St James's auction house in a round robin. "If so, Christie's is in a position to offer you an advance payment of a percentage of the expected proceeds from the sale."

Christie's, however, may face competition. Three years ago Sotheby's targeted aspiring names offering to value paintings and porcelain. The house hopes that its investment might pay dividends, as those who joined Lloyd's now return with a rather different purpose in mind.

● A new informal style in Whitehall? Last night Robin Young, the civil servant running the environment department's review of local government finance, met council finance experts to iron out their differences over the council tax. The meeting took place not at the DoB but over a beer in a Whitehall pub. Mike Grealy, of the Association of County Councils, says: "It was an informal chat in which cricket featured as highly as local finance." What next — perhaps Tom King should take regimental chiefs down the local wine bar to break the bad news over a bottle of claret?





## MIMICKING THE MARKET

John Major citizen's charter passes muster — just. He sees it not as a bundle of brand new policies, but as an extension of a Conservative approach to consumerism into the virgin territory of the public sector. His charter covers the citizen's direct dealings with the state and privatised utilities. It has been improvised over a few months by a prime minister in a hurry. How will the details of the charter in yesterday's uncosted white paper be made to stick?

Britain is unusual among capitalist democracies in consciously seeking a fair balance between the individual and society. Other European countries prefer the corporatist path, with individuals ceding power to the state, capital, labour or (as with the European Commission) all three to look after their interests. The British tradition holds that consumers, employees and shareholders should not have to rely on the benevolence of a managerial elite, but should pursue their interests within a framework of law. The charter is to be part of that framework.

Despite its noble ambitions Mr Major's charter is pragmatic, drawing inspiration from classical liberalism, from American consumerism and from the public service idealism of school inspectors such as Matthew Arnold or popular judges such as Lord Denning. It also seeks to "mimic the market" in the public services and private monopolies with competition and compensation, contracting out and regulation, incentives and deterrents.

The charter gropes for a new integrity in public service. This is embraced by headline-grabbing reforms such as limiting hospital waiting times, compensating rail passengers for delays, reducing the Post Office monopoly, breaking up British Rail, privatising London's transport. There are also more humdrum suggestions. Public servants must give clients their names; schools must publish their results in league

tables; councillors must respond publicly to auditors' reports; courts must let juries go home at night; driving tests must be made easier to book. "Dedicated" public servants should be paid more, lazy ones penalised.

The package cradles the regard for courtesy and probity which Mr Major has made his hallmark. On public and private monopolies, it does not go far enough to satisfy its critics. On the right, the Adam Smith Institute does not want excessive regulation of privatised utilities. Neil Kinnock wants more investment in the public and more regulation in the private sector. The complaints from the right are more relevant in a recession than demands for more sweeping intervention from the left, which take too little account of the impact which a profusion of consumerist-inspired regulations may have on an ailing economy. The charter was devised during a recession. Its cost implications — which are still unclear, but appear to be modest — reflect that provenance, and rightly so.

Blaming the Treasury for the shortcomings of the charter is beside the point. Innovation in public service should not be governed by public spending restraint. Mr Major is rightly sensitive to any suggestion that his charter might create a large new bureaucracy. There is indeed to be a new unit under Sir James Blythe, besides new inspectors of schools and police recruited from outside their respective professions.

If modesty is his charter's virtue, Mr Major should perhaps not have asked the nation to expect so much of it. But the charter's fragility is his own. There is no virtue in spending more money to deliver better value for money. The object of Mr Major's exercise was to demonstrate that something could be done to improve public services without merely throwing cash at them. The charter he announced yesterday promises no more, but also no less.

## DEEP NON-FEDERAL WATERS

Since darkest 1975, successive British environment ministers have been swept this way and that by something called the Bathing Water Directive. This was an early example of Brussels intervention in the internal affairs of member states. At one stage the directive sat in a much-referred-to Whitehall file marked "ignore for ten years", at another, as if in revenge for this impertinence, it seemed to threaten the whole edifice of water privatisation.

The role of the European Community in the matter of bathing water is a paradigm of the dos and don'ts of the EC's new fashion, subsidiarity. The acceptable version of this principle states that the EC should only do what a national government cannot do on its own, just as a national government should only do what local authorities cannot do for themselves, and so on down to the individual citizen.

To the "new Europeans" around Jacques Delors, by contrast, subsidiarity seems to mean that the Commission first permits to lower tiers only those powers it decides not to claim for itself. In the former case, delegation is upwards, in the latter downwards. But subsidiarity in either version was on nobody's lips in 1975, which is why a directive which ought to have been scrutinised for appropriate competence was instead nodded through as a vaguely "good thing".

There is no sensible case for making the dropping of crisp bags on a beach a matter for supranational sanction, and many would say that it is not for national sanction either. It is for local by-laws. Should holiday-makers dislike a rubbish-strewn shore, they will not return; nothing cleans beaches like market forces. But water is different. Blackpool council by-laws cannot force the building of a new sewage treatment plant at Fylde, nor can holidaymakers. If anybody has to do that, it is the government. Yet the absence of such a plant nearly put the British government in the dock charged with breaking the bathing water directive. Only

when Mr Heseltine promised a general water clean-up was the threat lifted.

But such EC enforcement powers ought never to have been removed from national governments. Copying such bad habits, many British local councils have stopped worrying about street cleaning, blaming their deficiency on "government cuts". The next move in the back-passing game will be for Westminster to blame its inertia on "interference from Brussels".

Clean beaches are thus full of lessons for the European federalist debate. The EC has two proper roles in the matter. Where adjacent states share water, as around the Mediterranean coast, a supranational authority may have a role under treaty law by which, say, the French and the Italians can settle a cross-border dispute on control of tide-borne sewage. But such supranational discipline ought to wait on a complaint from a neighbouring state.

Second, the EC is about a common market. A free market needs good information, otherwise choices are not informed market-place choices. Tourism is a continent-wide industry, transcending national frontiers. The market in tourism, to be efficient, needs a free flow of accurate information. It is within the EC's proper remit, therefore, to ensure that such information is available.

Blue-flag schemes and lists of unhealthy beaches, which the EC has just published as part of the enforcement of its directive, are thus a correct manifestation of subsidiarity, something that can only be done at Community level. The pity is that this is not seen as the end in itself. To collate and disseminate information is a market perfecting mechanism, not a market distorting one. It should not, in a case such as this, be a prelude to administrative enforcement, which is the proper duty of a national government. Petty meddling ridicules European co-operation and undermines the case for supranationalism where it is appropriate.

## SILVERY GHOSTS

Do cars have souls? This is not a question from a philosophy of mind finals paper, though it easily could be. What constitutes a classic car's identity has been exercising buyers and dealers alike. Over the past two days, *The Times* has unearthed examples of famous cars that have been broken up and rebuilt, creating two cars in the process, both with old parts. Which car is the original?

The dilemma is not new. The Greeks pondered it too, and Thomas Hobbes pondered them pondering it, in his "ship of Theseus" paradox. Their treasures were thirsty for new timbers. Each time the boats docked, parts of them had to be replaced. There could come a time when not a shiver of timber survived from the boat's first days. Intuitively it remained the same boat. But how could its identity be defined, if not through its constituent parts?

Usually when objects are restored, the process is gradual. The continuity of old parts alongside the new creates a thread of identity that observers can trace. Some British cathedrals contain only a fraction of the stone with which they were first faced, yet nobody questions their antiquity. By contrast, the old quarter of Warsaw, which was flattened during the second world war, was "restored" all at once. In fact, it was completely rebuilt. Convincing copies as they are, these are not thought of as Renaissance houses. People are still arguing about whether Uppark, the 17th-century Hampshire house gutted by fire in 1989 and now being restored, will be real or fake.

Personal identity is tricky, too. Our cells are constantly being renewed, so that the

matter which now constitutes our bodies is quite different from what we were made of ten or 20 years ago. Unlike cars or houses, though, we have minds. John Locke said that continuity of memory and consciousness make us the same persons through time. But does the person who suffers from amnesia or lies in a coma therefore become somebody different? Derek Parfit, a contemporary Oxford philosopher, thinks personal identity is an optical illusion to which we are attached through habit; but that we ought instead to think of ourselves as a set of overlapping states. That leaves the Cartesian question: what (or who) is doing the thinking? An overlapping state?

From the Greeks onwards, philosophers have tried to define the essence of a thing. The Thames remains the Thames, even though its water is in flux. Theologians claim that people cling to their souls, whatever happens to their bodies and minds. But where does the soul reside? Would someone who experienced a partial brain transplant (as fanciful now as once was a heart transplant) remain the same person?

A car must have an essence, or where would the classic car market be? Engines may make them tick but like human hearts are easily replaceable. The chassis is regarded by experts as the closest surrogate for a vehicular soul. But if the chassis is divided neatly between two rebuilt cars, are both to be seen as "original"? The answer is to regard the new creation as a blend, as with old whisky, and adjust its price accordingly. Doubtless classic car dealers will see it differently, and continue to divide and fool.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Foul language's link with violence

From the President of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association  
Sir, Concern about the use of four-letter words springs not from prudery, as Janet Daley suggests ("Brutalising ourselves to death", July 19), but from an awareness of the link between foul language and violence. The more "normal" such language becomes — and *The Times* printed the four-letter word on its front page (report, July 16) — the less it is likely to be used in exceptional circumstances to express anger, and the more as a fashionable "mot". And so, fists, feet, anything to hand rather than words, become the automatic vehicle of outrage.

This is why, while agreeing with much that Ms Daley says about the brutalising effect of screened violence — this association has been saying much the same thing for many years — I would question her dismissal of protests about obscene language.

Ms Daley rejects as "priggish" the

listing of the majority of complaints

to the Broadcasting Standards

Council under the heading of "taste

and decency". But the essential

element of broadcasting is that it is

seen and heard in the home. Television is not cinema and viewers have a right to try to uphold standards which they feel important, not only in their own homes but to the quality of our culture generally. That is not a triviality.

Of course, Ms Daley is right when she speaks about how "the anti-censorship lobby continues to demand proof" of a link between televised and social violence and of how cynical that is. It is a matter of satisfaction, mingled with regret that it has taken so long, that it is now becoming increasingly accepted, even in liberal academic circles, that there is a link between televised/filmed violence and social violence.

Let us hope that those responsible for television standards will ensure that their own bland statements of concern about the treatment of violence will now be translated into practice.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY WHITEHOUSE, President,  
National Viewers' and Listeners' Association,  
Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex.

### TV censorship

From the Director of the Broadcasting Standards Council

Sir, May I make some brief points in response to the letter from Mr Michael Jones of Panoptic Productions (July 19) about the finding by the Broadcasting Standards Council following complaints against the programme, *Sex and the City*?

1. The council followed the procedure laid down by the Broadcasting Act 1990 having viewed a recording of the programme. It invited Channel 4, through the ITC as the broadcaster, to send a statement in response to the complaints, copies of which were already in their possession. It was for Channel 4, in preparing the statement, to undertake whatever consultations it thought right. Similarly, it was for Channel 4 and the ITC that the council's finding was made.

2. The council is not a censor. It can

only consider and make findings on complaints about programmes after they have been broadcast. Decisions about what to broadcast and when are, as always, matters for the broadcaster.

3. Mr Jones neglects to mention that, apart from the finding by the council, which recognised the importance of the programme's subject, the ITC took the view that *Sex and the City* was unsuitable for broadcasting in that form on Channel 4 at any time.

I should add that the Act provides for a full hearing at the discretion of the council. It is always open to the broadcaster to request one if they feel that a written submission by itself would fail to state their case adequately.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN SHAW, Director,  
Broadcasting Standards Council,  
5-8 The Sanctuary, SW1,  
July 19.

### Dutch justice

From the Ambassador of The Netherlands

Sir, I read with interest your editorial "IRA's Dutch haven" (July 13) in which you expressed Britain's "right to be outraged at the partiality of Dutch justice following the acquittal of four alleged members of an IRA active service unit".

That the case has been taken very seriously in The Netherlands is not only illustrated by the thorough preparation of the public prosecutor over nearly a year, but also by the simple fact that the persons concerned have been acquitted of the murders of Australian tourists in Roermond, he sought to obtain conviction under Article 140 of the Dutch criminal code, Article 140, as interpreted by the High Court in The Netherlands, states that active

participation in an organisation intending to commit crimes is an offence.

In respect of both cases it was up to the court to decide if the evidence was sufficient. The court decided that it was not. The judge ruled that the identifications made by the crucial eyewitnesses were not reliable, mainly because the descriptions of the same suspect diverged too much.

In both our countries the judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature, and long may it remain so. We are proud of our traditional tolerance in The Netherlands, which adds to the quality of life, but this should not be confused with weakness, which does not.

Yours truly,  
JOOP HOEKMAN,  
Royal Netherlands Embassy,  
38 Hyde Park Gate, SW7.

### Jailed MP and pay

From Mr A. C. Taylor

Sir, Your report (July 12) on Mr Terry Fields, the Labour MP jailed for not paying his poll tax, says, "The 60-day sentence will not directly affect Mr Fields' status as an MP. He will still receive his pay while in jail."

In "Notes for War Displacement Pensioners", issued by the Department of Social Security, I read: "Imprisonment, if a war pensioner is imprisoned following conviction of an offence, the pension is liable to be forfeited during imprisonment, but may be restored on release when certain arrears may be payable."

Compensation paid to an individual for having been wounded in the line of duty, it seems, may be withheld on imprisonment, whereas another individual, also found guilty of breaking the law, will continue to be paid for duties that he cannot discharge due to his incarceration.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN C. TAYLOR,  
Horse Cottage, Chalk Road,  
Hild, Loxwood, West Sussex.

### Orchestra popularity

From Mr Duncan Rutter

Sir, The BBC house orchestras are funded from a government-authorised levy on television viewers, most of whom are no doubt unaware of their munificence. This wholly comfortable arrangement enables the BBC to use public funds to knock its competitors who have to earn their living in the market place.

Thus, according to Mr John Drummond (Arts, July 17), "the BBC Philharmonic far outstrips the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester (and there isn't a better orchestra in Scotland than the BBC Scottish". If Mr Drummond were not so insulated, thanks to taxation without

### Our secret society

From Emeritus Professor Nicholas Kurti, FRS

Sir, I am not surprised that files relating to Rudolf Hess's flight to Britain (Letters, July 17) will be kept classified until the year 2017 — which incidentally is not synonymous with their being declassified in 2017.

There seems to be a paranoid reluctance on the part of the authorities to inform the public about some of the war-time activities of the Germans. Thus the transcript of the recorded conversations of ten interned German "atomic" scientists following the radio announcement of the Hiroshima bomb in August 1945 are still classified and there are no plans for their declassification.

The USSR has been notorious for its active falsification of history. Our government departments by unreasonably withholding important source material are practising passive falsification of history.

Yours faithfully,  
N. KURTI,  
Brasenose College, Oxford.

representation, from financial reality, he would know that Manchester and Glasgow audiences, through the box office, take a different view.

Again, Mr Drummond somewhat arrogantly asks: "Why doesn't the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra go to the wall? The BBC Symphony Orchestra is an incomparably better orchestra". If he has such a taste for harsh free-market terminology, should he not accept free-market sanctions? If the criterion is what audiences voluntarily pay to hear, there is little doubt which orchestras should "go to the wall".

Yours faithfully,  
DUNCAN RUTTER,  
50c Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey.

### Safety of convictions

From the General Secretary of Liberty

Sir, We strongly welcome your support (leading article, July 15) for the case of Winston Silcott to be referred back to the Court of Appeal. Mr Silcott's case is just one of a number of cases that Liberty highlights in its campaign for criminal justice reform — cases of people who are widely believed to have been wrongly convicted on the basis of unreliable evidence, but about which our present system of justice does not want to know.

Your simultaneous call that uncorroborated confessions should no longer be sufficient grounds for a conviction has this week been given

substantial additional weight with the publication of the report of the independent enquiry into the working practices of the West Midlands police serious crime squad (report, July 17).

It should not be forgotten, however, that of the over 30 cases where the cornerstone of the evidence was based on uncorroborated confessions, at least ten of those convicted are still serving long sentences in prison despite the unsafe nature of the confession evidence against them.

That is why our campaign goes

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

### Funding review of marital agencies

From the President of Relate Marriage Guidance and others

Sir, The Home Office has recently completed a review of the funding of Relate and other marital agencies. The decision, which is now due, will affect the well being of families and children when they most need help.

As presidents of national Relate and some of its local centres we are concerned that, although we have made a strong case, we may lose it, not because its merits are not accepted, but because of the way government decisions are made. It seems that, although enormous public expenditure savings result from our work, they may not be acknowledged in spending negotiations between the Home Office and the Treasury because most of them fall on other departments such as social security.

Our family policy campaign, launched in June 1990 in response to ever increasing demand and long waiting lists in many of our centres, calls for the Home Office to increase its funding of our work to £10 million per annum over the next three years.

Relate has shown that the government spends over £10,000 on average every time a divorce or separation takes place involving children under 16. Over 150,000 divorces occur every year costing government over £1.3 billion (£1.1 billion being social security costs).

The overall cost per case in Relate is just £107 (we work with over 55,000 couples and individuals a year). No other service doing com-

parable work on this scale costs as little as this, many of them four or six times as much.

An independent study shows that Relate saves government at least £40 million per year in its work preventing divorces and separations. This figure takes no account of the cost to the couple themselves, to employers and, most of all, to the children.

Yet Relate's central government grant last year was still just £1 million per annum, worth in real terms nearly one fifth less than its value in 1981.

This government has spoken much of the need to support family life and this is now widely acknowledged, for example in the Law Commission's proposals for the reform of divorce law. Relate does more than any other organisation to save marriages and prevent their unnecessary breakdown. Will the Home Secretary now act to enable Relate to meet the growing demand and help more couples?

Yours etc,  
BRIDGET FLOWDEN, President,  
Relate Marriage Guidance,  
ALAN AYCKBOURN,  
MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA,  
JUDI DENCH,  
DAVID LANE,  
† DAVID LIVERPOOL,  
DEBBIE OWEN,  
† DAVID WAKEFIELD,  
KATHARINE WHITEHORN,  
Relate Marriage Guidance,  
Herbert Gray College,  
Little Church Street,  
Rugby, Warwickshire.

### Reviving house rental

From Mr Stuart A. Corbyn

Sir, Your leader on July 12, "Reviving house rental", asks: "Is a picture emerging from the jigsaw of the government's housing policy?"

Although much was said at the time of the Housing Act 1988 about the need to increase the amount of property in the private rented sector, in April this year the government announced a consultation exercise aimed at further stimulating the private rented sector which has now fallen to just 7 per cent of all housing.

The Labour party's recent change of mind, promising after all that it would continue a free-market private rented sector, might have helped to restore some confidence amongst those organisations that contribute to the rental market, as opposed to people who, unable to sell their houses because of the recession, let them temporarily.

In their statement about commonhold (which is an alternative form of tenure is excellent) and the extensions of enfranchisement to include flats (report, July 13), the government reminded us that the proposals "underline our commitment to home ownership".

It is not possible to have a commitment to home ownership and expand the private rented sector at the same time. However desirable a healthy, active private rental market might be, and such markets exist in most countries, it has to be accepted that it is most unlikely to happen in this country.

The extension of the principle of disfranchising landlords is fast approaching a time when, in the private sector, only rented housing will be unaffected. However, as this government believes that 1,500,000 leaseholders of flats should be able to buy their freeholds, how long will it be before some future government feels the same about the 1,400,000 private rented homes?

### Farming reforms

From Mrs Joanne Bower

Sir, It would seem that the whole argument about the reform of the common agricultural policy (Letters, July 19, 20) rests on the definition of the word "efficient".

Mr Gummer's efficient farmers, in addition to producing surplus food which costs billions in grants, subsidies and storage, have denuded our countryside of useful trees, hedgerows and other features, poisoned our waterways, heavily reduced our wildlife, confined livestock in conditions where fulfilment of natural behaviour patterns is impossible, fed us on residues of toxic pesticides and very likely antibiotics and other drugs.

If we begin by defining "efficient" farming as that which increases fertility, treats animals humanely, provides wholesome food without contaminating our soil and water, and preserves the beauty of our countryside, perhaps it will be possible even for Mr MacSharry's small farmers to make a contribution to a new concept of agriculture.

Yours faithfully,  
JOANNE BOWER  
(Honorary Secretary),  
The Farm and Food Society,  
4 Willfield Way, NW11,  
July 20.

further than seeking a change in the rules on confession evidence and calls also for the immediate setting up of a standing judicial enquiry (along the lines of the May enquiry) to investigate these and other cases where there is widespread concern about the safety of the convictions.

Any recommendations for changes in the law made by the royal commission are unlikely to be implemented before 1995. This is too long to wait. The Home Secretary has as yet not responded to our calls for immediate change.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW PUDDPHATT,  
General Secretary,  
Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties),  
21 Tabard Street, SE1.

For there to be a private rented market, those in a position to make property available must have confidence in the future. The government's latest moves on enfranchisement undermine any confidence there might have been and it is impossible to envisage anything but the continued decline in the private rented sector.

The answer to the question posed in your leader must be that the picture emerging is that the government is moving towards a housing market consisting of owner-occupation and renting of local authority or housing association property.

Yours faithfully,  
STUART A. CORBYN  
(Chief Executive and Director),  
Cadogan Estates Group,  
18 Cadogan Gardens, SW3,  
July 15.

From Mr Andrew J. H. Shaw  
Sir, The continued delay by government to produce detailed proposals on commonhold is very surprising considering how much preparatory work for the prospective legislation has been conducted thus far.

In 1987 there was a report by Mr Trevor Aldridge on commonhold. Prior to that, in 1985, there was the Nugee committee's report and we have the benefit of the Australian experience of strata title as well as the American experience of condominium legislation. There was a very useful publication by the College of Estate Management on commonhold produced in 1990.

Now that government has come off the fence I think it has a duty to all those affected to advance the matter further as a matter of urgency and not just political expediency.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW J. H. SHAW,  
Baileys Shaw & Gillett  
(Solicitors),  
17 Queen Square, WC1,  
July 15.

### Teenagers' benefit

From Earl Russell

Sir, The government concession on income support for 16 and 17-year-olds (report, July 17), though welcome, leaves the central problems unremedied.

Sixteen and 17-year-olds are supposed to be eligible for grants under the youth training scheme. Places in this scheme are privately provided. There is therefore a gap between the welfare purpose of the entitlement, which must be universal, and the interests of employers, who must retain the right to refuse to take on those they consider unsuitable.

Some categories of teenagers, notably those who are pregnant and those who are too near their 18th birthday to complete a course of training, regularly fall into that gap. The severe hardship provisions, on which ministers rely, consistently fail to pick up all of them.

This is perhaps the only case in our welfare system in which people are denied any legal means of avoiding starvation. This is why the Mori study on the impact of benefit changes, to which your report referred, showed that 21 per cent of those interviewed admitted to having stolen. This is not an efficient way of getting young people into work or of reducing crime.

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL  
(Liberal Democrat spokesman on social security),  
House of Lords,  
July 17.

### Demise of the pen

From Mr Paul C. Gill

Sir, The problem is not just with recycled newspaper and cards (Letters, July 17, 19); have you ever tried to do *The Times* crossword puzzle with a fountain pen?

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL C. GILL,  
10 Maple Grove,  
Kelghley, West Yorkshire,  
July 19.











# Familial ties skilfully woven

RONALD COOPER



Caught between personal and political ideals: Pyotr Semak as Mishka

all, it captures the epic feel of changing times and momentous events washing over individuals who emerge either as victims or heroes, winners or losers. Film propaganda no less than unwavering religious rites, bawdiness and drink puritanism and bureaucratic correctness: all are part of the fabric of the Russian enigma.

The direction takes in both relaxed naturalism and fantasy — an unabashed use of dream and imagination sequences to portray wish fulfilment — against a flexible set where a tilting log pulisade can become the roof of a bath-house or a political platform, a sloping field or a hayloft for lovelorning. The style is more familiar to London opera houses than our theatres; it would be in place at English National Opera.

There are beautiful set pieces. Mishka returns from a season in the lumber camp with presents for his family, the most important of which is a solemnly unwrapped bundle of cloth to hissed away. A child asks what it is. "It's bread," says his mother doubtfully. "A loaf. Is it real?" The family sits in a room of near religious silence to share this treasure with a happiness so reverential that it verges on tears.

The emotional content of a scene can be wickedly subverted. The chairwoman meets her husband, returned from the war, and there follows a wonderfully played scene of clumsy, blundering tenderness bordering on pain, and too intense for words, as he silently drapes her in the fine clothes he has brought back for her. They share drink, embrace, almost weep; then she recalls bitterly how he raped her before marriage, beat her when pregnant, and how she now waits for someone else.

Pyotr Semak as Mishka is the linchpin but there are many beautiful performances: Tatyana Shestakova as the chairwoman, Natasha Sokolova as Mishka's sister whose support for a petition almost certainly signs her death warrant, and Sergei Vlasov as the clownish opportunist who, no less than the bully, finds his way to the top in certain societies.

MARTIN HOYLE

## THEATRE

### Brothers and Sisters Lyric, Hammersmith

THE Maly Theatre of Leningrad ended its short season in Hammersmith with an adaptation of Fyodor Abramov's novel trilogy on village life in north-west Russia. No less than *War and Peace*, this is a historical tapestry. The action is compressed into a few years of post-war reconstruction and disillusion, the cast of characters comprises peasants, workers and party officials, but the impact of great events on ordinary people is charted with the inexorable clarity of a great history novel.

The dramatisation, partly by the director Lev Dodin, is divided into two full-length plays. The first is less overtly political, more the story of a community's adjustment to peace-time seen through emotional relationships: notably the love affair between young Mishka from the logging camp and the earthy widow Varvara, that provokes bitter disapproval.

Personal and political intertwine when the commune's chairwoman is condemned for economic mismanagement and Mishka, angered at her interference in his private life, refuses to defend her. The unhappy conflict between principle and inclination, the realisation that "it is better not to live at all than to live without conscience", play an increasing part in the second play, when the shadow of bureaucracy darkens into tyranny.

The production is an example of beautiful ensemble work from a large company. A rural community is effortlessly created, from splay-footed simpleton to hobbling crane. Above

## RADIO

### The Beach of Falesá/ The Hunter and the Hill Radio 4

FOR years I have been urging fans of Julian Maclaren-Ross's short story "A Bit of a Smash in Madras" to read R.L.S. Stevenson's *The Beach of Falesá* and to speculate as to whether it might be related. The narrator in each case is a colonial drone — bloated, prejudiced, a bit thick, more than a bit lecherous — and each gets embroiled in an exotic quandary which defines his character. Stevenson's ventriloquist achievement is the more daring and exacting while his plot of venturer dishing a hoodoo merchant

in the dark heart of something or other anticipates another novel by the Polish fraud who called himself Conrad.

Robert Forrest's dramatisation of the story (Saturday) chose to ignore the narrative voice, as though he had been working not from Stevenson but from Dylan Thomas's published film treatment of the same title, which fatally misses this tone. It was a sad waste of Kenneth Cranham, who arrived at the microphone after a crash course in Long John Silveresque. West Country accents are always a boomerang for players who have not grown up with them, principally because they tend to mistake their "r" for their "l", shovelling them in precisely where needed, like a nervous tannoy. Cranham is too fine an actor for this to obtrude for long, and

his account of Wiltshire's anger at Case's taboo and his ultimate revenge was convincing. Give him a really canny voice coach and he could make a decent fist of Alan Breck Stewart.

By coincidence, Saturday's play *The Hunter and the Hill* was Tom Wright's dramatised biography of RLS done in three voices: those of Ma Stevenson, the lad himself and the American widow whom he married. There was a wealth of diastatic information on display, particularly regarding the fragile health of the boy who was called "Smoot" on account of his puniness, but the metaphysical aspect went by the board.

The chief missing voice was that of his Calvinist nurse, who scared the booties off her charge with her graphic tales of hell and how to get there, and who must take the greatest respon-

sibility for the nature of his imagination. The odd extract from James Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* would have painted the backdrop more effectively than seagulls or Pacific breakers concocted from real dried peas.

And what about the girl whom biographers call "Claire", RLS's first love who supplied grounds for parental disapproval quite as anguished as did his apostasy? Whoever she may have been, she explains why Stevenson's heroines are so sexy — sexier than anyone dreamt of by Hardy — and why his books need to be reclaimed from the children's shelves. He died, as Graham Greene put it, just as the spade was beginning to strike the flint.

MARTIN CROPPER

## Deborah Harry Hammersmith Odeon

AMONG the T-shirts and other tour paraphernalia on sale in the foyer was an item that perhaps epitomised a marketing executive's perception of Deborah Harry. It was a black suspender belt, her name embroidered in gold lamé, but even at a relatively snipish £5, not many were sold before showtime. In her fans' eyes, Deborah Harry transcends corporeal considerations such as sex.

While her pop descendant Madonna is a crude descendant of ambition and pointy brasserie (partisan thinking runs), Deborah is art, kitsch, wit — a legend. The atmosphere in the stalls was palpably reverent. "I love you, Debbie!" sobbed one despairing boy. Harry could have got away with anything in there and, for a while, did.

She wandered on, a little figure in a chiffon catsuit, and glided experimentally through "Union City Blue" and "Dancing Queen". They gleamed, but Harry looked static and preoccupied. Was it nerves? Painful platform shoes?

Her detachment persisted through the next few numbers. Perhaps it was simple boredom with songs written at

punk's dawn, one-and-a-half decades ago. Afterward songs comprise one of the best-loved of all pop catalogues, but Harry was walking through it by rote.

Eventually, however, something shifted. During "Hanging on the Telephone" she picked up a whip which had been unaccountably hanging about the drum riser, and began flicking it at her band. This caused great hysteria to all parties and the ice was broken.

The Blondie hits, evoking New York's New Wave summer of 1979, passed far too quickly. Harry's muse, Chris Stein was back on guitar, and deftly replicated the shiny pop of the first four Blondie albums. The audience, simmering near the hysteria threshold, crossed it during the octave-charged "Atomic". Harry watched on with inscrutable cat's eyes. It is easy to understand why she commands such adoration. There was no hint of Madonna-ish calculation when Harry flitted with her guitarist: that's just the kind of girl she is.

During "Rip Her to Shreds" she delivered the line "red eyeshadow, green mascara — yolk, she's too much" with throwaway panache. This is a woman who inspires monument-building, not suspender-buying.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

Arts features, page 13

## NEW RELEASES

**ALICE** (12): Woody Allen's iconic fantasy about a Manhattan wife in crisis. Loads and loads, but with a marvellous film performance. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

**CHINATOWN** (12): A revival of Roman Polanski's 1974 classic, a good sense of character. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

**IN BED WITH MADONNA** (18): A biographical, eye-opening, shot during her 1985 world tour. Director, Alek Keshishian. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

**THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS** (18): A film that is a masterpiece of suspense, a masterpiece of horror, a masterpiece of thriller. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

**THE SHIPWRECKED** (12): A film that is a masterpiece of suspense, a masterpiece of horror, a masterpiece of thriller. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

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## CURRENT

**ANDREI RUBLEV** (12): Tarkovsky's stunning history, completed in 1966, is an epic of the life in medieval Russia. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

**LA GLOIRE DE MON PÈRE** (12): A film that is a masterpiece of suspense, a masterpiece of horror, a masterpiece of thriller. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated by the symbol @) on release across the country.**

**CHILDHOOD MEMORIES** (12): A film that is a masterpiece of suspense, a masterpiece of horror, a masterpiece of thriller. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

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## THEATRE GUIDE

**Jerome Klinker's assessment of current theatre in London**

**House full, returns only**

**Seats available**

**Seats at all prices**

**misplace of family guilt**

**Madame de Sade** (12): A film that is a masterpiece of suspense, a masterpiece of horror, a masterpiece of thriller. (Cinema: 1991; Video: 1991; Rental: 1991)

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## WORD-WATCHING

**Answers from page 20**

**ROKELAY** (c) A short cloak worn by women in the 18th century, named after the fashionably dressed French du de Rouquelay. Walter Scott, as usual referring to the word, wrote: "Having, moreover, put on her clean top, rokelay, and scarlet plaid."

**URMAN** (b) (Swampy) pine forest, from the Tatar *urman*: "As far as the eye could see, and then ten times as far again, the forest stretched black, wet, desolate, untraversed by the foot of man."

**KHUTBAH** (a) A form of prayer and oration used at the Friday service in Muslim mosques, from the Arabic *khutbah*: "He repeatedly read the khutbah, or prayer, containing the name and titles of the prince of the age."

**DZEREN** (a) The Mongolian antelope, *Procapra gutturosa*, from the Mongolian *dzeren*: "The dzerens inhabit the dry arid deserts of Central Asia, particularly the desert of Gobi."

## TODAY'S EVENTS

**Stationary** Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4 (071-836-6301), 7.30pm.

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** A production of the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by Nicholas Hytner, at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, 7.30pm.

**THE PHILANTHROPIST** A production of the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by Nicholas Hytner, at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, 7.30pm.

**THE ROSE TATTOO** A production of the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by Nicholas Hytner, at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, 7.30pm.

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## WINNING MOVE

**By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent**

This position is from the game Barbovs — Larsen, Buenos Aires 1991. Can you see how white crashed through on the kingside?

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## Prison escapes raise security fears

By QUENTIN COWDREY  
HOME AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

FRESH questions were being asked about prison security yesterday after a high-security inmate, described as "very dangerous" by police, escaped from jail just 24 hours after a multiple child rapist had broken out of Broadmoor top-security hospital.

Vincent Brown, who was serving 15 years for armed robbery, was one of three prisoners who forced their way on to the roof of Armley jail, Leeds, early yesterday. His two colleagues surrendered after sitting on the roof for nearly four hours, but the third man scaled the perimeter wall.

Last night the Prison Officers' Association said the three were among 45 inmates who had been transferred to new jails for taking part in a serious disturbance on June 23 at Frankland top-security jail in Durham. Despite being known trouble-makers they had been placed in the same cell on the top floor of an accommodation block at Armley, the union said.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, yesterday ordered an urgent enquiry into Sunday's escape by James Saunders from Broadmoor. The enquiry will be conducted by an internal team of officials from the Special Hospitals Service Authority (SHSA), which runs the Berkshire institution.

General Sir Charles Huxtable, a former commander-in-chief of UK Land Forces, will act as an independent assessor. The investi-



Waiting game: an inmate confronts police across coils of wire on the roof of Armley jail yesterday. Two men later surrendered, but a third escaped

gators have been told to have their report ready in a week. Mr Waldegrave said the public was right to be concerned about the escape of a dangerous patient from a maximum security hospital. He pointed out, however, that there had been only one other escape from Broadmoor since 1981. Staff at all levels within the SHSA were quite clear that their "first duty" was the protection of the public.

George Temple, chairman of Broadmoor's PFA branch, said security at the hospital, which contains many of Brit-

ain's most notorious convicted murderers and sex offenders, had been undermined by a drive to create a more rehabilitative regime for inmates. "Broadmoor's walls might as well be torn down and the keys thrown away while the current system of security, encouraged by hospital management, continues," Mr Temple said. "None of us is surprised this has happened... it has been boiling up for years. We've been pressing the management that the low-profile security they have

encouraged was going to lead to this." Dr David Tidmarsh, Broadmoor's acting medical director, said there was a "distinct possibility" that Saunders, aged 24, who raped a girl aged 11 and another aged 15, would re-offend. "He has a history of picking up adolescent girls and dragging them into his car," he said. Saunders, dubbed by the tabloids as the "wolf man", had made threats to kill people shortly after being admitted to the hospital. Dr Tidmarsh said.

As police, with the help of

mounted officers, scoured the woodlands surrounding the hospital, Chief Inspector David Dye, who is leading the hunt, admitted that Saunders could be anywhere in the country. Saunders is believed to have broken into a Scout hut and stolen a two-man tent and two axes after scaling the hospital's 22ft-high perimeter wall.

Shirley Saunders, the hunted man's mother, yesterday appealed to her son to give himself up. In a statement issued through Avon and Somerset police, she pleaded

with her son not to cause his family further heartbreak. She praised the work of staff at Broadmoor who, she said, worked under extreme duress. The latest escapes can only increase ministerial nervousness about security in jails and top-security hospitals in the wake of the break-out, earlier this month, from Brixton prison of two IRA suspects. Last week Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, set in motion an independent investigation into the way category A prisoners are being held in English and Welsh jails.

## Political sketch

### Pet hates and pat answers

JOHN Major's statement about his citizen's charter, said Neil Kinnock, was "ineffectual, banal, vague, and actually damaging". Mr Kinnock's own statement was not actually damaging.

In your sketchwriter's view, Labour's response to Major's idea was misjudged. It was the natural response. It was the first response of sketchwriters like me to laugh. To laugh at the provision of a shopping list of everybody's pet hates - traffic cones, bureaucratic insolence, gas men who won't say when they'll call, out-patients' appointments which are all for 10am - paraded, as though linked by some noble theme, under the grand title of "citizen's charter", and solemnly recited by a prime minister whose other responsibilities include nuclear war and the overall direction of the British economy.

We all had a political sketch ready-drafted, mentally. It asked why there was nothing in the citizen's charter about BR tea-servers that don't spit, cream-truckers that go soggy when you've opened the packet, and digestive biscuits that break up and sink to the bottom of the mug. It enquired whether, now that commuters whose trains are late or uncomfortable may get reimbursements for their season tickets, a discount could be offered to those whose trains actually crash.

Finally, it observed that the government does not seem to be proposing new rights for citizens who get saddled with a duff MP. What are to be MPs' "performance-related" pay criteria? When your Tory MP is late for the local cheese-and-wine do, will there be a reduction in party subscriptions? Should they offer the constituents of Terry Fields (Lab, Liverpool, Broadgreen) a refund for the 60 days he's in jail? Could we all have a refund for Nicholas Ridley?

Shouldn't constituents be able to require MPs over 70 to submit themselves to medical inspections before re-election, then pass an annual MOT, with results on display at the town hall?

And Mr Major's solemn avowal that "public servants should no longer be anonymous" invites (I suppose) the quip that the reform should start at the top. A discreet lapel badge "John" at prime minister's questions would be a good first step; and perhaps cabinet ministers could wear little paper hats, like at Macdonalds...

But I wonder. When MPs branded a package which included the deregulation of London buses as "trivial", one wondered what reaction that would get at Wands-worth bus garage. It is a big and controversial step. When Mr Major said it should be simpler to arrange a driving test, the mocking "ooh" from MPs suggested it was some years since most of them had tried. And the shouts of laughter over his proposal to make it harder to "cone off" sections of motorway, and easier to get new motorway service areas built, came from an assembly who get unlimited free first-class rail and air warrants for their constituencies and whose in-house travel agency once told me that it does not sell coach tickets "because nobody goes that way".

Before yesterday's statement, many on Mr Major's own side secretly took Labour's disparaging view of his charter. But when they heard their own opinion, that the everyday frustrations of life in a welfare state are ineradicable and of secondary importance, from the mouths of socialists, it occurred to them how irritating this can sound. Labour's response helped Mr Major content a patchy white paper.

MATTHEW PARRIS

## Major woos civil servants

Continued from page 1

ity depends first on the front line staff. Many of our public services are outstandingly good. But I think we all know that some other services leave much to be desired. I know that throughout the public service there are many people with energy, enthusiasm, initiative and ideas, working often in difficult circumstances. I want all staff, both front line and those who back them up, to have the scope and the incentive to use all those qualities to serve the public. I want the citizen's charter to achieve that. It sets out certain common principles

which will apply to all public services.

They are: published standards of service; consulting the public; clear information; courtesy and efficiency from named staff; user-friendly complaint procedures; independent validation of performance.

Building on work already in hand, each organisation will have its own programme to turn these principles into practice. In many cases they will publish their own charters. We will be providing more information about this in the weeks to come, and each of you will be invited to play

your part. I know you will, because we all want to improve the quality of our public services, and it is the combined efforts of each of you as individuals that matter, more than organisations and systems.

The citizen's charter puts people first. And it depends on you to make it a reality. The citizen will know, by the treatment he or she receives at the place where services are actually delivered, whether the citizen's charter principles mean something in practice. It is up to each of you to make sure that they do.

— JOHN MAJOR

## Full enquiry into BCCI pledged

Continued from page 1

he said that members of the security services would be available to go before the enquiry. Mr Major insisted that he had not seen any of the auditors' reports submitted by Price Waterhouse during 1990 when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Two auditors' reports were produced in March and October 1990, when Mr Major was Chancellor. His answer in the Commons apparently contradicts remarks made by the governor of the Bank of England at an all-party meeting of MPs last Thursday. Robin Leigh-Pemberton told

the meeting that he had kept the Chancellor informed of developments concerning BCCI. Last night Keith Vaz, the Labour MP for Leicester West, wrote to the governor urging him to clarify the position.

Meanwhile, the Bank of England said that the Deposit Protection Board had written to 53,000 holders of sterling deposit accounts at the English and Scottish branches of BCCI. The letter invited them to complete a claim form for compensation from the Deposit Protection Fund.

□ The High Court was told earlier in the day that BCCI's

executives had been concealing the bank's losses for at least 14 years, and the bank may never have been profitable in its entire history (Neil Bennett writes).

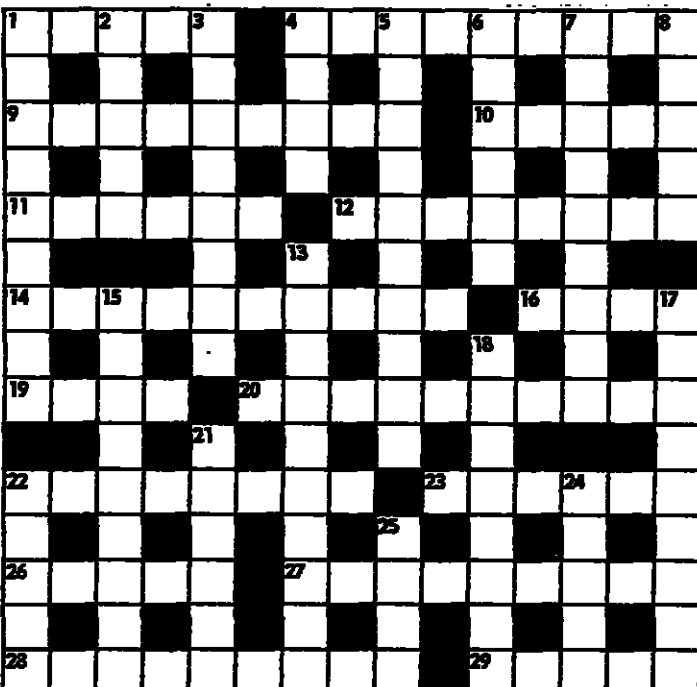
The Bank of England revealed astonishing details in court of the systematic fraud at BCCI which was needed to cover up billions of dollars of bad debts. The Bank's petition to the court to place BCCI in liquidation showed that the bank had used fictitious loans and deposits to boost its financial position.

Winding-up petition, page 21  
Liquidators' report, page 21

## WONDERFUL TIMES AHEAD

Over the next six weeks, readers of *The Times*, famously imaginative, funnys of wisdom and good taste, have a wonderful opportunity to display all these qualities as well as indulging blind prejudice. This weekend, the Saturday Review begins a series on the seven wonders of the world. Not only that, but our readers are invited to choose the seven wonders of the 20th century, bearing in mind the seven should be things we can gaze upon in awe (thus excluding such wonders as the microchip and penicillin, but not excluding, for example, flying machines). The reader who provides the best list will win a wonderful holiday for two. Order Saturday's *Times* today.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,665



### ACROSS

- 1 Spike or peg to put in (5).
- 4 Foreign cricketer, say, bowled all right at end of season (9).
- 9 On a river bank, the principal water-plant (9).
- 10 Foreign capital in company affected by inflation? (5).
- 11 Waste away without a first prize (6).
- 12 Skier's turn left inside first of two targets (8).
- 14 Best way three Rs can produce fruitful result (10).
- 16 Ken sounds negative (4).
- 20 Expensive letter-opener (4).
- 20 Possibly a Monet? Bunk - it's a fake (10).
- 22 Make up team as announced for match (8).
- 23 Service provided in Peak District (6).
- 26 Dish that is divided initially (5).
- 27 Picked extra (2,3,4).

### Solution to Puzzle No 18,664

EFFECTS PLACATE  
R R I A R L N E  
EVING CHORISTER  
R O A K G A E I  
CLARE PRESENCE  
I T E S A N E  
SWEET TEMPERATE  
E T R M S X  
STONWARE TOAST  
A I S A B R  
CORRIDGE STRA L  
A S M H I E L V  
L A M A S T E R C L O S E  
E C E A N A I  
D U N G E O N E A R N E S T

### DOWN

- 1 Predicts a conversion - perfect? (3).
- 2 Trunk's a third of a ton, approximately (5).
- 3 Directions an aggressive type gives reporter (8).
- 4 Bumped off, twisting sideways (4).
- 5 Russian operatic hero provides diversion (3,7).
- 6 Seal sovereign or pound (6).
- 7 Female who fought on copper's side once (9).
- 8 Criticize a batsman's effort (5).
- 13 Signal to start fighting slightly mistimed (7,3).
- 15 Sensible part of procedure, a list I compiled (9).
- 17 Watch over meadow? Primrose survived there (9).
- 18 Exclamation from Pat, on finding punch among drinks (8).
- 21 Second best, making a frightful noise (6).
- 22 Plants leader of clique before start of play (5).
- 24 Lacking sparkle, nevertheless (5).
- 25 Reportedly tolerates this stream of hate (4).

Concise Crossword, page 17

The Thirteenth Penguin Book of *The Times* Crosswords is now on sale, price £3.50.

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

### ROKELAY

- a. A getting up song
- b. An Australian parakeet
- c. A woman's short cloak

### URMAN

- a. Hypothetical prehistoric man
- b. A swampy pine forest
- c. A temporary better

### KHUTBAH

- a. A deputy Peoh Bah
- b. Muslim prayer and sermon
- c. Fine floral miasin

### DZEREN

- a. An Asian antelope
- b. A primitive spokeshave
- c. To waste time in gossip

Answers on page 18, column 1

### AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

### London & SE

C. London (within N & S Ceres)	731
M1/M25/M25	732
M1/M25/M25	733
M1/M25/M25	734
M1/M25/M25	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

### National

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

A sunny start for much of England but cloudier with some light rain in western areas, including Northern Ireland. Cloud will increase later in central and eastern areas with a few evening showers. Very warm and humid in sunnier areas but around average in wetter parts with sea breezes keeping coastal areas cooler. Outlook: cloudier in most areas with further rain or showers.

MIDDAY: 1-4 thunder, 5-6 drizzle, 7-8 fog, 9-10 rain, 11-12 sun, 13-14 sun, 15-16 sun, 17-18 sun, 19-20 sun, 21-22 sun, 23-24 sun, 25-26 sun, 27-28 sun, 29-30 sun, 31 sun.

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Abandon: 1-4 sun,



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- SPORT 32-36

## UK Land losses put dividend at risk

UK LAND, the property company best known for painting a south London shopping centre bright pink, has reported pre-tax losses of £966,000 in the six months to end-March (£1.7 million profit).

The losses, however, were not unexpected given that the company made losses of £14.8 million in the year to September. Since the year end, when the company's accounts were qualified by its auditor, group debt has fallen from £27.3 million to £23.6 million.

As normal the company is not paying an interim dividend. It gave warning yesterday, however, that it was unlikely to pay a final dividend. During the half year £2.3 million of interest was capitalised.

### Stocklake plan

Stocklake Holdings, the steel stockholder and distribution group, plans voluntary liquidation in a move designed to return £5.7 million of cash, or 133p a share, to its shareholders, who will also be handed the company's shares in banking group Rea Brothers. Holders will also receive shares in Adam & Harvey, Stocklake's main subsidiary, which will apply for a share listing.

Tempus, page 23

### Brent talks go on

Brent Walker, the leisure group, yesterday said that the long-running talks with its bankers were continuing. While all but one or two banks have agreed to the rescheduling of Brent Walker's £1.4 billion of debt, some are thought to be reluctant to contribute to the £50 million of new money that the company requires.

### Evode at £3m

Evode has announced pre-tax profits of £3 million (£7.2 million) but a maintained interim dividend of 4.28p a share for the six months ended March 31.

Tempus, page 23

US dollar	1.6825 (-0.0055)
German mark	2.9570 (+0.0017)
Exchange index	91.1 (same)
FT 30 Share	1973.8 (+14.3)
FT-SE 100	2558.5 (+17.0)
New York Dow Jones	3006.71 (-9.62)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	22705.29 (-161.07)

RISER:	485p (+33p)
Dunhill	528p (+10p)
Greene King	442p (+12p)
Ulster	265p (+8p)
Ladbroke	252p (+8p)
Molins	352p (+8p)
Central TV	587p (+15p)
Smithline Beach	835p (+8p)
Tate	285p (+28p)
Wellcome	405p (+8p)
Christies Int	202p (+18p)
Pearson	735p (+7p)
FALLS:	
ADT	535p (-55p)
Cambridge Elec	192p (-8p)
Nat Home Loans	60p (-15p)
Thames TV	227p (-15p)
Barlow Rand	855p (-15p)
Tyne Tees TV	235p (-8p)

Closing Prices...Page 25

London Bank Base	11%
3-month interbank	11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	10 1/2%-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate	8 1/2%
Federal Funds	5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.57-5.58%
30-year bonds	9 1/2%-9 3/4%

London	New York
£: \$1.6825	£: \$1.6815
£: DM2.9570	£: DM1.7585
£: Sfr2.2592	£: Sfr1.8215
£: FF10.0378	£: FF6.9850
£: Yen231.18	£: Yen137.41
£: Index: 91.1	£: Index: 85.9
ECU 20.694375	SDR 16.793859
£: ECU1.440144	£: SDR1.259586

London	New York
AM 3970.10	pm 3989.75
close 3989.80	370.10 (2218.40-219.50)
New York	
Comex 3970.45-370.95	

Brent (Aug)	£20.05 bid (£20.35)
* Denotes latest trading price	

RPI: 134.1 June (1987=100)
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# Signs of recovery lift Treasury hopes of an end to recession

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURPRISE recovery in retail sales in June boosted government confidence for an imminent upturn it expects, while record exports last month drove the current account into surplus after more than four years in deficit. The seasonally-adjusted retail sales index last month jumped a provisional 1.3 per cent to 119.7, instead of showing the slight fall the City expected after an 0.5 per cent drop in May.

The current account balance, which encompasses trade in visible goods and invisibles, rebounded to a £23 million surplus from the £522 million deficit in May, a deficit forecasters had expected to be repeated. Manufactured goods showed

their first surplus since early 1984. The encouraging news about the economy suggested that the spate of interest rate cuts since February has finally started to revive consumer confidence after a year of recession, while the foreign trade balance is showing an underlying improvement.

The pound and share prices rose sharply after the figures. Sterling moved half a penny higher to about DM2.96, before easing back to close at DM2.9571. The FT-SE 100 ended 17 points higher at 2,558.5, 2.5 point short of its record close last week.

The Treasury said the recession in retail sales "clearly is coming to, perhaps even is, at an end". The Retail Consortium noted that, after allowing for inflation, the annual 7 per cent rise in the value of sales indica-

ted volume sales were the same as a year ago. In May, they were 4 per cent lower.

"After nine months of zero, or negative growth, it is a relief to see what is hoped will prove to have been the start of an upward trend," the consortium said.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has stuck to his Budget forecast that lower inflation and interest rates will revive consumer spending to lead the rest of the economy out of recession in the second half of this year. City economists acknowledge the tentative evidence that retail sales are bottoming out, but continue to doubt the Chancellor's forecasts for the timing and strength of recovery.

In the second quarter, volume sales were 0.9 per cent down on the previous three

months, and 1.9 per cent below the second quarter of 1990.

Welcoming the turnaround on the current account, Mr Lamont highlighted the return to a trade surplus in manufactured goods for the first time since February 1984. Record exports of £9.03 billion, narrowed the visible trade still deficit to £377 million in June from £922 million in May. The June visible deficit was more than offset by the estimated £400 million surplus on invisibles.

Excluding oil and volatile erratic items, such as aircraft and gems, the visible trade deficit was slimmed down to only £727 million from £1.1 billion in May, giving a deficit of £6.10 billion for the first half of 1991. The first half current account deficit

was £3.52 billion, in keeping with the government target of a £6 billion deficit for the whole year. After a £2.99 billion deficit in the first quarter, the second quarter saw the deficit sharply reduced to £930 million.

He said Britain's entry to the exchange-rate mechanism last October had clearly not made British exports uncompetitive in Europe, as many critics had predicted.

Volume exports, excluding oil and erratic items, rose 3.5 per cent in the second quarter to stand 3 per cent above the second quarter last year. Imports, on the same basis, were little changed between the first and second quarter, but were 5.5 cent lower year-on-year.

Comment, page 23

## WINDING-UP PETITION

# QC says BCCI may never have been profitable

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE BANK of England has revealed devastating new details of the multi-billion dollar fraud at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in its attempt to place the bank in liquidation.

Gabriel Moss, QC, the Bank of England's barrister, told the High Court: "The BCCI Group has made significant losses over the last decade and may never have been profitable in its entire history."

The Bank of England's winding-up petition, which has at last been made public, shows that BCCI's top management resorted to a series of frauds to conceal heavy losses at the bank in the early Eighties. The Bank, however, has insisted on codenaming some of the key companies involved in the fraud and blanking out others in the public version of its petition.

The losses came from bad debts and treasury trading. In all, the report from Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor, says that the concealed losses total several billion dollars, although regulators and accountants are still trying to determine the actual shortfall.

The PW report says the manipulation of BCCI's accounts was "a full-time occupation which involved the manufacture of documentation, inflation of account turnover, concealment of funds flow and involved 750 accounts over a 15-year period. This is one of the most complex deceptions in banking history," it concluded.

First, BCCI made loans worth more than \$4 billion to companies and individuals who were unlikely to repay them. One of the main borrowers was Gulf Group, a shipping company. BCCI's senior executives also took out large loans on limited security.

In May this year, the Abu Dhabi authorities took over responsibility for the loans, but has the right to return them to BCCI in a liquidation.

Meanwhile, between 1977 and 1985, BCCI's treasury division made losses of \$849 million on money market and futures trading.

The bank's intense treasury trading was concealed since much of it was carried on under the names of BCCI clients. When the trade made

a profit, the money would be taken into the bank's funds. When, as happened more often, the trading went wrong, the bank simply wrote the loss against the client's name instead of recording it in its own accounts.

BCCI's systematic deception in its treasury department was uncovered as much as six years ago when the Luxembourg Money Institute asked PW to examine the operations. The latest PW report reveals that the treasury manager left the bank the following year, but was paid \$32 million to keep silent.

If BCCI had reported the losses from the treasury trading and the bad debts, regulators may well have closed BCCI down ten years ago. As a remedy, the bank's executives started to manipulate the accounts and raise money illegally. 16 local bank regulators into thinking it still had the funds to continue trading.

The Bank of England's petition catalogues the many fraudulent devices BCCI used. Among them were unrecorded deposits and loans from other banks; the use of funds from ICIC, a BCCI-related company in the Cayman Islands; secret dealing in its own shares; and bribing major customers to confirm they held money in the bank.

BCCI took out clandestine loans from other banks to fill the ever-widening gap in its finances. The bank also created fictitious loan accounts

and then redeposited the money it withdrew from them to make its asset base appear healthy.

The bank, meanwhile, took in \$600 million in deposits and failed to record them. This provided the bank with a substantial boost to its financial base.

These deposits were then paid into other accounts and moved around the world to conceal the bank's losses. BCCI also loaned money to the secret clients on the security of their deposits.

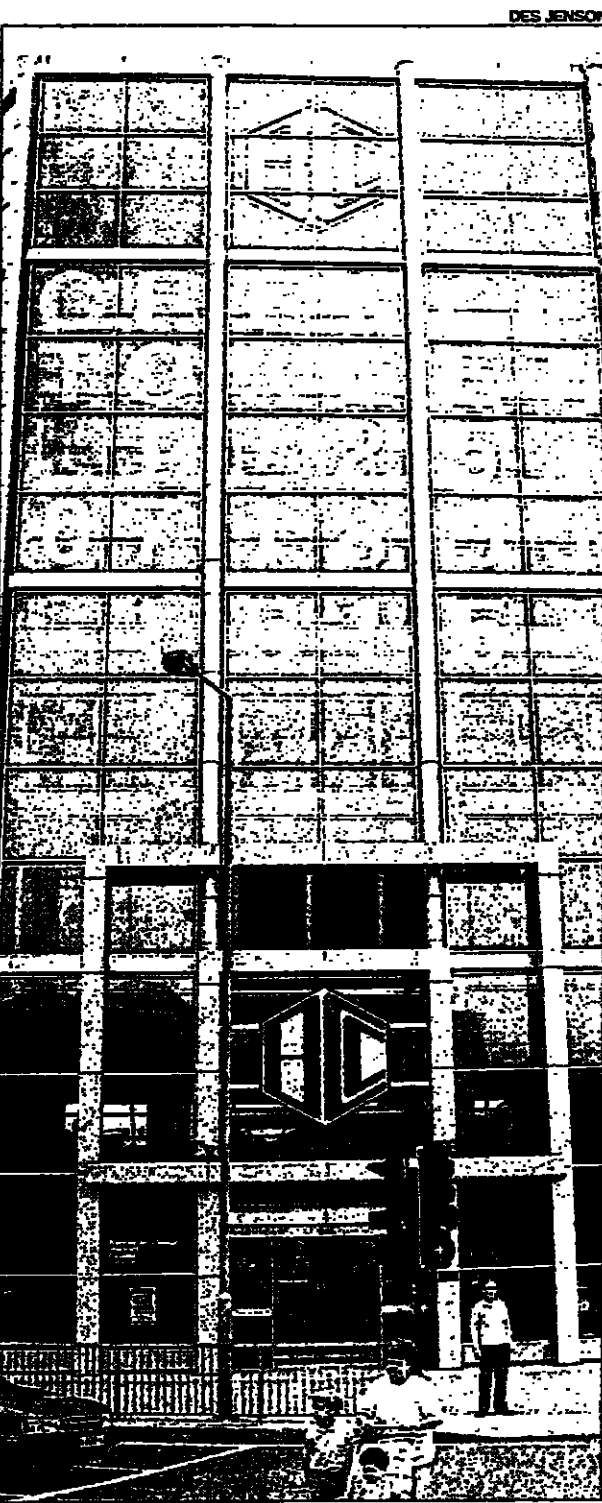
The bank further inflated its accounts by borrowing from ICIC, the Cayman Islands company that was codenamed Fork in the PW report. The bank used funds from Fork itself, and money held under management by other people. The bank, however, had not realised the long-term implications of its deception.

By the late Eighties, the fraud had begun to spiral out of control. "The solutions to the initial problems had to be solved using the same deception but on an ever-increasing scale," says the Bank of England's affidavit. The fictitious loans and unrecorded deposits had to be repaid sooner or later, and replaced by similar transactions.

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High court hearing, page 2  
Men in the news, page 2  
Stoneway enquiry, page 2  
The rage trade, page 2  
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Banking on new tenants: a former Bank of Credit and Commerce International office in West London, now to let.

## LIQUIDATOR'S REPORT

# Depositors face \$3.25bn loss in bank's collapse

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TOUCHE Ross, BCCI's provisional liquidator, says that 115,000 depositors in the British operations of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International stand to lose up to \$3.25 billion in the bank's collapse.

These, almost 36,000 accounts held less than £1,000 each, totalling £4.7 million.

Another 9,500 accounts held less than £20,000. These deposits totalled £44.1 million. The biggest of BCCI's deposits were concentrated in 3,100 large accounts, which together held £604 million. This includes the local authorities, estimated to have lost £70 million.

The figures are in a provisional report from Christopher Morris, a partner at Touche Ross. The report was read in the High Court yesterday as the Bank of England tried and failed to place BCCI in official liquidation.

The report says the liquidation of BCCI will "raise problems which are not merely complicated but perhaps unprecedented".

Touche has also discovered that the vast majority of BCCI's customers had less than £20,000 at the bank and will have three-quarters of their losses covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme.

Michael Crystal, QC, the barrister representing Touche Ross, revealed, however, that one depositor, whose identity has not been revealed, held £33 million in the bank, an even larger exposure than Western Isles council's £23 million.

Mr Crystal said the bank was illiquid and that the deficit would be "very substantial indeed", although Touche had not been able to discover how large.

So far Touche has been able to raise only £20 million from BCCI's British and Luxembourg operations.

The bank's 24 UK branches had 48,400 sterling accounts, which held £652 million. Of

BCCI in Britain also ran 70,000 overseas accounts in foreign currencies, with deposits totalling \$2.15 billion. These are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme.

All of these dwarf the losses of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan and the Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's main shareholders, who announced in court they had deposits of \$1.39 billion in the bank when it was closed on July 5.

Mr Crystal said Touche Ross had been given access to BCCI's central records in Abu Dhabi over the weekend, where more than 6,000 files on the bank are kept. These will allow Brian Smouha, the administrator from Touche appointed to the bank, to discover the size of the shortfall in the bank's funds.

Touche Ross's provisional report also reveals it is struggling with BCCI's computer system, which "relies on equipment which is between 10 and 15 years old and chronically prone to failure". The computers also used obsolete software which is making it even more difficult for the liquidators to retrieve accurate account details.

## Japanese assets frozen

THE assets of Bank of Credit and Commerce International's Tokyo branch have been frozen by the district court, which has ordered a liquidation of BCCI Japanese operations, according to Japan's finance ministry.

A spokesman for the ministry feared that preferred creditors of BCCI might seize assets ahead of ordinary depositors. BCCI's Tokyo office voluntarily suspended operations on July 8. The finance ministry inspected the BCCI's

Tokyo branch last week and concluded that freezing its assets was necessary. The ministry said: "BCCI's Tokyo branch has been closed and is unlikely to resume operations soon. It is suspected that the liabilities of BCCI Tokyo have exceeded its assets."

A large part of the bank's assets in Japan have been sent to sister branches abroad as deposits rather than loans, the ministry said. "Part of the assets owned by the Tokyo branch have been already

frozen in overseas branches, and their fate will be decided at an international creditors' meeting later."

According to ministry's findings, the BCCI Tokyo branch had ¥53.7 billion (£234 million) in 250 deposit accounts at the end of March.

Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Ltd, a shipbuilder, said last week it, and its wholly owned subsidiary, had ¥12.2 billion in term deposits at the BCCI Tokyo branch.

## Green light for Burton rights

By MATTHEW BOND

SHAREHOLDERS in Burton Group, the high street clothing retailer, have approved the company's controversial £161 million rights issue.

At an extraordinary meeting in London, shareholders voted in favour of the proposal to sub-divide the company's existing 50p shares into shares with a nominal value of 10p.

After the vote in favour, Burton's one-for-one rights issue at 30p will now proceed. Dealings in the new 10p shares and in nil paid rights issue shares will begin today. Burton launched the rights issue after being hit by falling sales and declining property values. As part of its restructuring plan, the company is axing 1,600 jobs and closing 120 branches.



Agreeing: Sir John Hoskyns and Laurence Cooklin

Some of the private shareholders attending the meeting criticised the fact that the service contracts of some board members, including those of Laurence Cooklin, the chief executive, and Richard

North, the finance director, appeared to have been agreed only a few days before the rights issue was announced.

However, Sir John Hoskyns, Burton's chairman made it clear that Mr Cooklin's salary had been agreed last November, when he became chief executive,

and that Mr North's terms were settled in December, when he was offered the position as finance director designate.

Legal fine tuning and pressure of work had then prevented the two men signing their contracts until last month, a company spokes-

man said. Both Mr Cooklin and Mr North finally got round to signing their service agreements on June 18, ten days before the rights issue was unveiled. Under the terms of his five-year agreement Mr Cooklin is paid £375,000 a year, while Mr North is paid £250,000 a year under a three-year agreement.

Given the financial problems facing Burton no early increases in salary are envisaged. Indeed, one of the elements of the company's post rights strategy is that the salaries of its top and middle management have been frozen until September, 1992.

While some of the private shareholders were clearly unhappy with the explanation - one called on the entire board to resign - there was no sign of the much-expected revolt by institutional shareholders. The vote in favour of the rights issue proposals was carried easily on a show of hands. Had they been required, proxy votes in favour outnumbered those against by 100 to one.

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# Plucking banking's rotten apple

COMMENT

Thanks to Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, the vice Chancellor hearing the petition for BCCI to be wound up, the public at last has some inkling of the scale and complexity of the fraud and corruption that built up in that sinister bank. It was astonishing. According to the crucial 1,600 page report commissioned from Price Waterhouse by the Bank of England, which remains private, BCCI performed all three of the classic financial frauds.

Money was invented (or debts hidden) to cover up losses. Peter was robbed to pay Paul and clients' funds were managed on the principle of heads we win, tails you lose. BCCI added new malpractices. Inevitably, the fraud escalated in a spiral only outside regulators could stop.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England has been under attack on two fronts: for causing unnecessary hardship and damage to clients by closing BCCI's operations too hastily and for not acting fast enough in the face of growing evidence of fraud and corruption. He can meet the Treasury select

committee today with confidence that the court proceedings have acquitted him on the first charge.

In the form BCCI existed on July 5, it had to be stopped, regardless of the Court's decision on its ultimate corporate fate. A mere injection of cash from Abu Dhabi to recapitalise and reorganise the bank would not have been enough, as the Bank of England has argued from the start. BCCI was rotten to the core, not just insolvent.

As this evidence piles up, however, the charge that the Bank's supervisors did not act fast enough gains strength. As the Bank's own evidence points out, fraud started to cover up losses in the early Eighties. Since then, there has been plenty of libellous anecdotal evidence available that must have alerted the authorities, long before the letter was lost between ministries. The difficulty of turning this into firm evidence appears to have beaten the regulator as well as many

others. More recent, well-publicised, American disclosures appear to have spurred neither the Bank nor its critics anything like fast enough.

The Bank may have lacked some of the practical powers needed to intervene effectively until the latest banking legislation came into force. In those days, however, the older more informal power of nods and winks could effectively have stopped BCCI expanding, as it did in Britain and the London markets, without supervisors having to fire their big guns.

Politically-inspired enquiries are unlikely to get to the bottom of the matter, for it involves high international politics. There was a powerful lobby in the leading financial centres, and particularly in the Islamic Middle East, for this third world bank to be

allowed to succeed and compete with established international banks from the first world. With responsibility for supervision split, neither the Bank's supposedly tough supervisors nor anyone else was anxious to risk wrath by spoiling the party.

## V-turn

One swallow does not make a summer, but what does it mean when swallows start appearing in twos and threes? The Treasury could scarcely conceal its delight at yesterday's combination of much better than expected trade and retail sales figures and for once the mandarins deserved their moment of pleasure. The real significance of yesterday's figures was not merely to point to the end of

recession by the end of the year. That was already expected. Britain had never experienced more than five quarters of economic decline in a row, and the idea that the present recession would last even longer than the 1979-81 slump always seemed overdone.

The cause for pessimism about the economic outlook — and about the government's election chances — was that the recovery was likely to prove extremely slow and feeble, just as it was in the early Eighties. Yesterday's figures suggested that a stronger recovery might be in prospect.

There would be a world of difference between a "V-shaped" recession, with the decline followed by a strong recovery and the "U-shaped" or "W-shaped" pattern which had begun to be taken for granted by most forecasters. If the economy grew as weakly after this recession as it did in the early Eighties, then the benefits might remain imperceptible in terms of unemployment, business investment or voting intentions, until the second half of next year or even 1993.

Given the usual statistical caveats, a V-shaped recession seems more plausible after yesterday's figures. The rise in retail sales does not seem a flash in the pan. Considering the poor June weather, it may if anything have understated the underlying strength of consumer demand.

Officials also indicated that the strength of demand was spread quite widely, including the highly cyclical household goods sector, as well as food retailing.

The trade figures for the last several months have suggested that the balance of payments constraint on future growth may not be as troublesome as most economists have assumed. The strength of exports suggests that the Treasury may have been right to argue that the pound was not overvalued in the ERM. If so, the long-term economic outlook may be considerably better than expected. At last, the stock market optimists had something more than sentiment to back another rise in prices.

## ICI goes back to its roots in an effort to stay world class

Hanson threat may speed up ICI's efforts to abandon peripherals. Angela Mackay reports

ICI has dealt itself some bad hands over the past decade. We are all sure of this because Sir Denis Henderson, the chemical group's chairman, confirmed it more than a year ago. Then, he said the group had to reassess its goals and position in the market.

Sir Denis also told us about the recession deepening and recommended belt-tightening, but that erudite prophecy was not given the same attention as his comments on Britain's biggest company.

On Thursday, the announcement of ICI's interim results will be a side-show to the revelation of details about the company's new, leaner shape. The market has already discounted the prospect of lower profits caused by the recession and the low point in the chemicals cycle. Most pundits are expecting pre-tax profits of between £420 million and £455 million, compared with £733 million previously.

Interest has centred on ICI's restructuring, after the purchase of a 2.8 per cent stake in the group by Hanson plc and the subsequent talk of bids and mergers. As far as Sir Denis and his board are concerned, Hanson's interest is an unwelcome distraction.

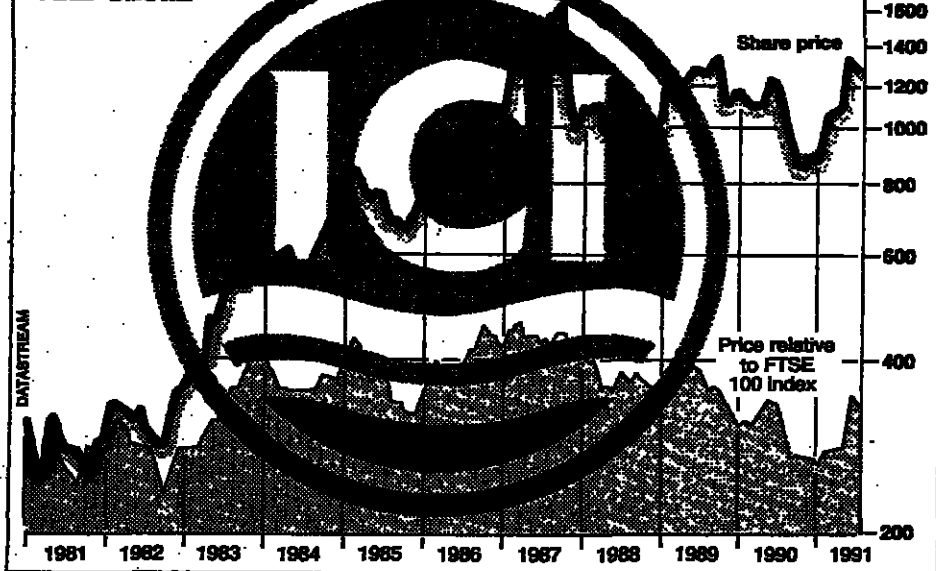
That interest may, however, have the knock-on effect of sharpening ICI's focus when it comes to putting the restructuring into effect.

Sir Denis has already put aside £300 million towards the cost of a reorganisation and more than half is likely to be spent on redundancies.

A theme to the restructuring is already evident. ICI is coming out of peripheral businesses and is concentrating on core activities that have, or can readily develop, strong global positions.

In the late Seventies, ICI had a very different shape. The company had long before realised it was no longer inviolate as the corporate flagbearer of the British empire but subject to the vagaries of the marketplace, like everyone

ICI IN BOOM AND SLUMP



else. A strategic change was in the wind. For example, in 1980, most profits came from fertilisers (£151 million), general chemicals (£99 million), oil (£97 million) and pharmaceuticals (£66 million).

In 1990, when the company suffered a 36 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, the fertiliser business contributed nothing to ICI's profits and the company sold its oil interests. Profits now are dominated by pharmaceuticals (£489 million), general chemicals (£153 million), agrochemicals (£153 million) and seeds (£110 million) and paints (£108 million).

Fifteen years ago, the company decided to use its strong cash flow from North Sea oil and the benefits of a £200 mil-

lion was started with the purchase of Garsud Seed Company of America in 1985. In the following year, ICI merged its PVC business with Enichem of Italy to form the biggest producer of PVC in Europe.

Over the following three years, the group became the world's biggest paint company when it bought Glidden Paint in America from Hanson for \$580 million. It then acquired the Stauffer Chemical Co — mainly for its agrochemicals business — sold its American industrial chemicals business and lastly, merged its oil interests into Enterprise Oil.

Mark Quilliam, an analyst at JP Morgan, has suggested ICI paid too much for Stauffer and that it contributes little to

profits. He also points out that while ICI, the maker of Dulux, is the biggest paint company in the world, it is not as profitable as PPG and Sherwin Williams, its rivals.

That ICI missed its opportunity to expand its pharmaceutical operation during the Eighties is a charge many analysts level at the group. Mr Quilliam said Bechem was the most likely candidate, but suggested that ICI perhaps considered the dynamic growth of the existing business meant the division did not need an acquisition.

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, said the division's impressive 22 per cent compound growth rate may be endangered because key prod-

### 'ICI missed opportunity to grow its pharmaceutical operation'

ucts are losing their patent protection and there are no new drugs in the pipeline big enough to replace the success of the company's three cardiovascular drugs.

Whatever its critics say, ICI was depicted as the success story of British industry in May 1988 on the cover of *Fortune International* magazine. It said: "After decades of decline, the world's oldest industrial power has recovered its prowess."

This was followed by another testimonial article in *Forbes* magazine in 1989 which described ICI as "one of the few world class businesses". Were these reports mere puffs, exaggeration, or was ICI simply the best of a bad British bunch?

ICI has certainly cut its vulnerability to economic swings in the UK. In 1980, 42 per cent of its chemical sales were in the UK, 16 per cent in the Americas and 26 per cent in continental Europe. Last year, 22 per cent of sales were in Britain, 29 per cent across the Atlantic and 26 per cent on the Continent.

The problem is to capitalise on this development by growing market share in these regions and obtaining a similar critical mass in the so-called Tiger economies of Southeast Asia.

ICI is trying to get its house in order to position itself for the next ten years at least. Lord Hanson is breathing over Sir Denis's shoulder to ensure shareholders do not have to wait a day longer.

TOMORROW: Hanson positions itself for the next century.

EVODE Group is shy about current gearing, reserved about second-half prospects and keeping its own counsel about prospects for this year's final dividend.

After six months to March 30, when virtually every market it served paused for breath, when real volumes were down and pre-tax profits knocked from £7.2 million to £3 million, Evode must wonder if things can get any worse.

But it aims to pull itself out of the profits hole, while praying for the recession to end, by further sales of non-core interests. The tally and identity of the "for sale" list is also its secret, but Technoplast, the Dutch injection moulding company, was sold in June for £3.9 million, and more asset sales should have been finalised by the year-end.

While the interim dividend is held at 1.78p a share, Evode has paid out more in ordinary and preference dividends in the first half than it made in profits — at the expense of reserves. There is, therefore, a potential health warning hanging over the final dividend — 4.64p paid previously.

Tentative economic recovery signs are now evident in America, but British profits (45 per cent of the whole) are still dogged by weak building, automotive, footwear, white goods and DIY industries.

Perhaps £20 million will be clipped off debts through asset sales, and lower domestic interest rates will be of help in the second half after an interim interest bill of £3.7 million. The last published gearing was 68 per cent, which might well now be 75 per cent, so disquiet about gearing will only be eased when it is

TEMPUS

## Evode plays its borrowing cards close to the chest



Mum's the word: Evode's David Winterbottom, left, and John Pratt give very little away

more readily recognised. But patience is required.

### Stocklake

A JUMP of 28p to 370p greeted the decision by Stocklake Holdings to redistribute its surplus cash to shareholders, as part of a

process that will tidy up this far-flung, distribution and steel stockpiling business, if not necessarily raise its profile.

The move, to be effected by a voluntary winding-up of the Stocklake parent, will stuff 133p per share into the pocket of every shareholder, along with 0.43 of a share in Rea Brothers, and leave them with a share in the ongoing businesses, which will re-emerge, in quoted form, as Adam & Harvey Group.

Small shareholders will have the option of taking cash in place of Rea Brothers shares.

Adam & Harvey's investment qualities remain somewhat obscure, although it is difficult to fault a trading performance that propelled Stocklake's pre-tax profits from £5.7 million to £6.3 million in the year to end-March.

What is clear is that holders cannot expect the same income return in the foreseeable future. With no cash pile to smooth the rough edges of trading results dependent on African and east European markets, the board will be aware of a need to build dividend cover.

Pro forma earnings for Adam & Harvey last year were 59.3p, although 28.7p was locked within the borders of Zimbabwe, and a dividend of 10p would have been paid, which suggests that its shares would trade at only 7.2 times remissable earnings. Eastern Europe offers as much potential as uncertainty, but Adam & Harvey may well prove rewarding to those with strong nerves.

### Airlines offer \$450m for assets

## American teams up with TWA to bid for Pan Am

AMERICAN Airlines yesterday entered the bidding war for Pan Am, the US carrier which is under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

American, which started flights to London this month, is joining Trans World Airlines in a \$450 million bid for all Pan Am's assets.

American, led by Robert Crandall, will put up \$250 million cash and in exchange get Pan Am's routes and ground facilities in Italy, Spain and Portugal and the commuter shuttle linking Boston-New York and Washington.

TWA, headed by Carl Icahn, is putting up \$30 million cash, assuming \$30 million of ticket liabilities and promises an additional \$140



Crandall: cash offer

million of working capital later. For that, the airline wants Pan Am's routes into London from Miami and Detroit, its hub at Frankfurt, eastern European routes, additional landing slots at New York's LaGuardia and John F Kennedy airports and Washington National Airport. The deal will also include certain aircraft engines, ground equipment and facilities.

The initial \$310 million bid is \$50 million more than offered last week by Delta Airlines, for much the same package of assets. Pan Am was not immediately available for comment last night, but any final decision will have to be approved by the Bankruptcy Court.

Delta said yesterday: "The decision will be about more than just money. It will be about jobs and we think we have a strong offer on the table."

TWA claims its plan will save 14,500 of Pan Am's 22,000 jobs — more than double the 6,000 likely to be retained under the Delta plan. Delta, the third largest American carrier, would virtually triple its destinations across the Atlantic with Pan Am's European routes. The airline has also suggested it may invest in Pan Am to help it



Icahn: jobs claim

emerge from bankruptcy protection. Meanwhile, others are circling. Northwest Airlines, ranked fourth in the American airline league table, has bid \$20 million for Pan Am's Detroit-London route and will raise the price to \$35 million if the Los Angeles-Mexico City service is included in a package.

United Airlines, American's arch rival, which bought Pan Am's London routes for \$290 million this year, has put in a bid for Pan Am's Latin American, South American and Caribbean routes, its New York-France service and some aircraft. But Pan Am rejected the offer last week.

Analysts say that by joining with TWA, American can effectively block competition it may encounter if United were to purchase Pan Am's route destinations south of the border. In the past two years, American has expanded aggressively, spending \$1 billion on international routes. Pan Am's attractions lie in the time-saving access it will give to Spain and Italy. Without buying the routes, American would have to renegotiate bi-lateral agreements which could take months.

PHILIP ROBINSON  
New York

## German inflation 'heading for 4%

GERMAN inflation could reach 4 per cent this month, and go higher during the rest of the third quarter, says Klaus Murrmann, president of Germany's employers federation. He added that higher German interest rates are now almost certain.

Herr Murrmann's comments, broadcast on German radio yesterday, followed a statement by Helmut Schlesinger, president-elect of the Bundesbank, who said on Sunday that higher inflation will require a more restrictive monetary policy. Herr Schlesinger will take over at the Bundesbank from Karl Otto Pöhl next week.

The pessimism on inflation and interest rates, now widespread throughout the country, comes amid growing uncertainty over medium-term fiscal policy, due to the still soaring transfer payment to the former East Germany.

Herr Murrmann said: "There are clear alarm bells ringing. The Bundesbank will have to act, and its action will mean higher interest rates."

The rate of inflation is set to jump this month because of a rise in indirect taxation, most notably on fuel. The increases are part of a wider tax package to help finance the transfer payments to the east.

Inflation was already at 3.5 per cent last month, before the tax package came into effect. The rise in inflation is seen as a result of the economic boom in the second quarter, during which Germany's gross national product went up 4.8 per cent, a clear sign that the economy is overheating.

The warning on inflation and interest rates depressed the Frankfurt bond market, which is gearing up for a rise in interest rates, possibly as early as the middle of next month.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
European Business Correspondent

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Wedding bells in the bush

SIR Peter Holmes, copper chairman of Royal Dutch/Shell, flies to the Luangwa Valley, Zambia, this weekend for a family reunion with a difference. He will be on hand for the wedding of Jo, his daughter, to Robin Pope, a bush celebrity, next Thursday. Jo, who helps Robin run the Tena Tena safari camp, is to marry under a giant fig tree overlooking a lagoon teeming with wildlife. Guests due at the reception include Norman Carr, an elephant hunter who celebrated his 79th birthday last week. Sir Peter and his wife, Judy, narrowly escaped death last year when their Cessna aircraft

crashed on the banks of the Luangwa river.

### Shannon's wear

JOHN Shannon has won his legal battle with Moss Bros, the menswear hirer. Shannon, who runs the Country Casuals women's wear chain, was seeking compensation after Moss Bros allegedly offered him the post of chief executive and then changed its mind. The courts ruled in his favour in November 1988, and Moss Bros lost two appeals. Now, the company has settled out of court, leaving Shannon more than £500,000 the richer.

Villagers pitch in DIRECTORS of ICI, keeping a wary eye on Lord Hanson as they are, raised a welcome

£10,000 last week — by selling a cricket field. The field in Ebberton, a village near Scar-



"How much to wind up the Bank of England?"

borough, North Yorkshire, went on the market at the request of players. Villagers have used the two-acre field for generations, but they were obliged to write to ICI every year to obtain formal permission to play. Prospects looked bleak after a sponsored walk raised little more than £1,000, but the day was saved for the villagers when Annie White, a resident, stepped in to make up the difference.

In for a penny EXCITEMENT has again gripped Frome, Somerset, this time over the fate of a rare silver penny. Residents, who were angered last year when the two-branch Frome Sewing Building Society was embroiled in a takeover battle, will be pleased to learn that

the penny, minted in Frome more than 900 years ago, is returning to Somerset. The coin will take up residence in the Somerset County Museum in Taunton, thanks to the Victoria & Albert Museum, which helped meet the £2,000 asked by a private dealer.

### Quiet movers

ANDREW Hutton and Darrell Mercer, long-serving City companions, are making a habit of moving on together. The pair, former directors of Hoare Govett and Stock Group, and latterly private client fund managers at James Capel, have quietly slipped away to join Fleming Private Asset Management.

JON ASHWORTH







## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always leave your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price	Div	Chg	Yield	P/E
1	Yorkshire Water	Water		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
2	Nina Foods	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
3	Hambleton	Bank/Discount		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
4	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
5	Kent Telecom	Electronics		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
6	Ordnance	Electronics		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
7	BAT	Tobacco		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
8	YPC Holdings	Industrial L-R		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
9	Electric House	Electronics		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
10	Evros	Electronics/Fin		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
11	Allied-Lynas	Chemicals		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
12	Cardo Eng	Industrial A-D		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
13	Hilldown	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
14	Grand Met	Breweries		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
15	Senior Eng	Industrial S-Z		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
16	Marley	Building/Roads		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
17	Perkins Foods	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
18	South West	Water		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
19	Waters & Philip	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
20	Highland Food	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
21	Balls-Royce	Motor/Aircraft		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
22	AB Food	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
23	Rangers	Industrial L-R		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
24	Portals	Industrial L-R		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
25	Scott TV	Leisure		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
26	Smith W & A	Drapery/Stores		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
27	Mite Gp	Industrial L-R		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
28	Race Elec	Electronics		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
29	Tonnet	Textiles		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
30	Wag	Industrial A-D		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
31	Br Aerospace	Motor/Aircraft		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
32	Rugby Group	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
33	Read Int	Motor/Aircraft		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
34	Lookers	Transport		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
35	Ocean Wilson	Drapery/Stores		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
36	Maris Spencer	Drapery/Stores		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
37	Rangers Group	Drapery/Stores		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
38	BPS Ind	Building/Roads		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
39	UK Land	Property		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
40	Cadbury-Schep	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
41	Tomkinson	Textiles		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
42	Utd Records	Food		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
43	Broken Hill	Industrial A-D		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
44	Whitbread A	Breweries		10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	10.00

Please take into account any minus signs

### Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Ramesh Patel, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Mr Alastair Harries, of Forest Fields, Nottinghamshire, each receive £2,000.

### BRITISH FUNDS

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### UNDATED

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### INDEX-LINKED

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### INDUSTRIALS A-D

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### INDUSTRIALS E-H

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### INDUSTRIALS I-L

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### INDUSTRIALS M-P

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### INDUSTRIALS Q-R

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### INDUSTRIALS S-Z

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### FINANCE, LAND

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### FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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### FOODS

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### BEVERAGES

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### DRUGS

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### TECHNOLOGY

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### ENERGY

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### UTILITIES

1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
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## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Shares slip from record high

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 15. Dealings end July 26. Contango day July 29. Settlement day August 5.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price	Div	Chg	Yield	P/E
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### BREWERIES

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### BUILDING, ROADS

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### CHIMICALS, PLASTICS

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### DRAPERY, STORES

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### BREWERIES

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# How Brits beat down the barriers

France has been persuaded to allow British lawyers to practise, Edward Fennell writes

Edith Cresson, the French prime minister, warned last year: "There is a world economic war going on and France is not waging it." The result, as seen recently, has been a clumsy revival in French protectionism, which seems guaranteed to backfire on France itself.

The legal field has not been exempt from this. Proposals to merge the two main branches of the French legal profession — the *avocats* and the *conseils juridiques* — and to exclude foreign lawyers have turned into a debate that is likely to be directly counter-productive to the interests of French commercial lawyers.

The aim of the French has been to streamline their profession and encourage the development of larger firms to challenge the dominance of the British and American firms in Paris. The reforms, coming into effect next January, also aimed originally to compel foreign lawyers in Paris to qualify as French *avocats* even though they were not practising French law.

By going against the spirit of the single market, the proposals created uproar among resident overseas lawyers. However, a determined diplomatic campaign led by Linklaters & Paines has forestalled the worst effects of the plan,

although the barriers are still up against new arrivals.

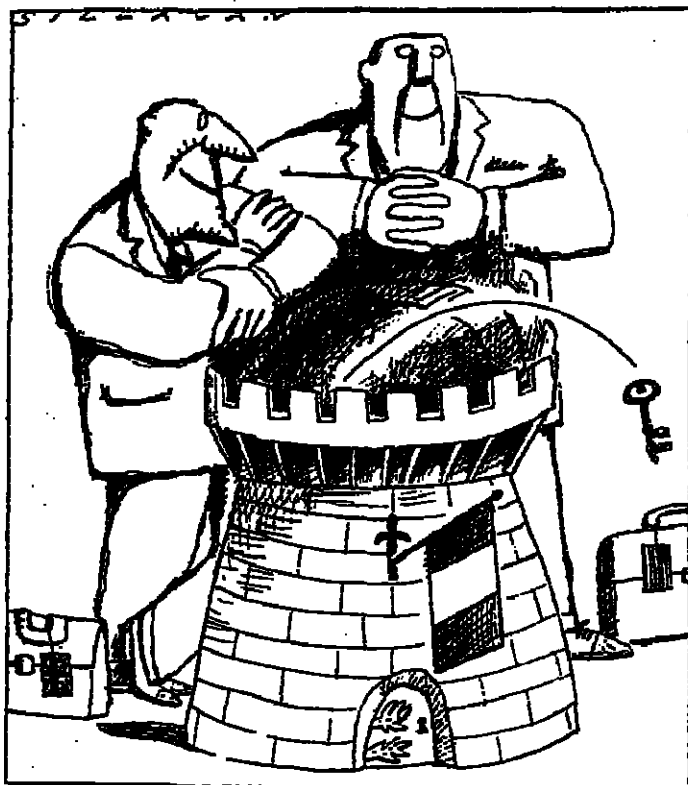
Instead, some so-called "grandfather's rights" have been agreed that will enable existing firms to continue to practise. Moreover, most of the established British lawyers in France will be awarded the title of *avocats*, and given robes to match, without having to qualify.

According to firms such as Theodore Goddard, the oldest established London firm in Paris, and Simmons & Simmons, the newest, the French appear to have shot themselves in the foot.

John Sell, of Theodore Goddard, points out that reforms have not just consolidated the position of the British firm but have enhanced their status by giving their lawyers *avocat* status. Moreover, British and American firms are so far ahead of most local firms that it will be hard for them to be caught in the foreseeable future.

One positive outcome for individual French lawyers, however, is that the trend for the British firm to recruit locally is likely to accelerate.

Theodore Goddard, for example, already has two French partners and a majority of French lawyers. Although the managing partner is British, Mr Sell, a Paris partner, says the logical development is that his successor will



that his successor will be French. British and American law firms already tend to attract the most dynamic French law students, and by weaving the tricolour into their identity they will become even more woven into the local scene.

That said, they are still linked by an umbilical cord to London. "The office is being thoroughly integrated into the London practice and now mirrors its specialisms," Mr Sell says. "We used to have generalists in Paris in the typical French way. Now, however, we are specialists in various aspects of corporate and commercial work."

A broadly similar process has been taking place at Simmons & Simmons. From a standing start the office has grown under Chris Watson's leadership to a total of 14 lawyers within three years. Half the lawyers are English and half French, and part of the secret of this success has been the link with Francis Meyrier, a French *avocat*

who has a strong local following. From next January the French and English halves of the firm will formally marry and Mr Watson believes the combination of British legal skills with French advocacy expertise will put the firm in an exceptional position.

The advocacy dimension could be particularly important because of the prominence of Paris as an arbitration centre. Growing emphasis is put on the Paris-London axis in cornering the bulk of the world's arbitration work, and some London firms with Paris offices are marketing the Anglo-French arbitration service as distinctive in its own right.

"Being able to offer arbitration services in both Paris and London is highly attractive to clients," says David Janney, Theodore Goddard's arbitration expert.

Clearly, Paris and London lawyers have more to gain by co-operating than fighting. In the long term those barriers will have to be lifted for Paris to remain a truly international legal centre.

## Beefing up pensions

People with self-employed pension policies issued more than ten years ago should read what will be paid if death occurs before the pensions are taken. Almost certainly, prompt action will be needed.

When Sir Geoffrey Howe removed the £3,000 tax-free premium limit in his 1979 Budget, he did more for self-employed people than any other Chancellor of the Exchequer. Before then, nobody could provide for a satisfactory pension, except the highest earners. Now this can be done without difficulty.

The Bar provides a striking example of the change. Before 1979 there were few practising barristers aged more than 55. They had to seek some kind of judicial office to obtain a pension. Today, there are many practising barristers in this age group because they have been able to provide adequate pensions for themselves.

Because the sums that could be put into pre-1979 pension funds were small, people have not thought much about them. However, some people will die without taking their pension, and until the early Eighties all policies provided that in such cases insurers would pay only the return of premiums, plus perhaps interest at 4 or 5 per cent. Under modern policies, the value of the fund is paid, which can be substantial.

Consequently, with a policy dating from the early Seventies, £X may be payable if death occurs before the pension can be taken. If the pension is taken, the holder will receive a lump sum of about £X and a pension guaranteed for five years. This will itself produce more than £X in that period, so more than £2X is guaranteed.

The prudent course for those aged over 60, therefore, would be to take the pension now rather than let the policy run. One QC, for example, had a policy with a fund value of about £60,000, which he rapidly transferred on finding that only £6,000 was payable if he died before he could

Pensions are worrying older barristers as pre-1979 plans may be inadequate for their retirement

take the pension. Alternatively, for those not wishing to do this, or aged below 60, it may be possible to convert the pension to a return-of-fund basis so that the accumulated fund will be returned if death occurs before the pension is taken. Some insurers do not permit this. Others require a medical examination and will impose conditions akin to a life insurance proposal if they do not like the medical report. The resulting basic pension may



Sir Michael: "Take stock now"

be slightly smaller but only insignificantly.

Otherwise, under the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, one can transfer the funds under a policy into an existing retirement policy issued by the same or another insurer on a return-of-fund basis. However, both policies must have been written under the act's section 226, as amended.

If the insurer is different, the whole of the accumulated fund can be transferred from an insurer whose policy contains the old

death provision into one providing for return-of-fund. This is known as the open market option. The sum transferred will be treated as if it is a single premium additional contribution.

Some insurers do make *ex gratia* payments on a return-of-fund basis, despite provisions for payment on a return-of-premium basis, but this is a matter of policy and subject to change.

Care needs to be taken in considering a transfer, as it cannot be done as of right.

First, the transferring insurer may exact a penalty, so the fund transferred may be less in value than at the date of transfer. As all these policies are ten years old or more, there should be no penalty with single-premium policies, certainly not by mutuals. With annual premium policies, insurers tend to treat transfers as akin to surrenders, so although there may not be a penalty for a policyholder aged 60, there may be a 20 per cent cut for somebody aged 55.

Second, the final bonus may be affected. Some insurers receiving a transfer do not take account of the first four or five years after the transfer when calculating these bonuses. Obviously, for these purposes such insurers should be avoided. The final bonus is likely anyway to be lower than if the fund had not been moved.

The insurance industry has given little publicity to such conversions or transfers, so few people know about them. Clearly, everybody with a return-of-premium policy should take advice on converting or transferring the fund, or take the pension. To do otherwise with somebody who has a question mark against his or her health, is gambling on survival to no advantage.

Any gratitude for this advice can be expressed by sending me a donation to the Barristers' Benevolent Association to help those without adequate pensions.

SIR MICHAEL OGDEN, QC  
● The author is a practising barrister

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## House of Lords

## Arbitration leave to appeal cannot be appealed

**Geogas SA v Transocean Gas Ltd**  
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Lowry  
[Speeches July 18]

An order granting a party leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal under section 1(7) of the Arbitration Act 1979 was final and could not be appealed against to the House of Lords.

The House so held in dismissing for want of jurisdiction an appeal by shipowners, Geogas SA, against the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Dillon dissenting) (*The Times* November 26, 1990; [1991] 2 WLR 794) granting charters, Transocean Gas Ltd, leave to appeal against the order of Mr Justice Webster on March 14, 1990 setting aside an arbitration award.

Mr Kenneth Rokison, QC and Mr Peter Groves for the charters; Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr Timothy Worthington for the owners.

LORD JAUNCEY said that at the outset of the hearing of the appeal Mr Rokison had been invited to address the House in support of a submission in the charters' case that the appeal was incompetent.

In support of his contention that a decision of the Court of Appeal granting or refusing leave under section 1(7) was final and unappealable he relied upon *Lane v Esdaile* ([1891] AC 210) and a number of later decisions.

Mr Goldsmith had argued

that those cases, while relevant to appeals from decisions refusing leave to appeal, did not apply to appeals from decisions granting it.

The jurisdiction of the House to hear appeals from the Court of Appeal derived from section 3 of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876: "... an appeal shall lie to the House of Lords from any order or judgment of ... her Majesty's Court of Appeal in England ..."

Two points emerged from *Lane v Esdaile* first, that an exercise of a discretion to grant or refuse leave to appeal was not such an order as was contemplated in section 3 of the 1876 Act, and second, that no distinction fell to be drawn between an order refusing and an order granting leave to appeal.

*Lane v Esdaile* had been followed in *In re Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890, Ex parte Stevenson* ([1892] 1 QB 609). Both cases had been referred to with approval by Lord Diplock in *In re Pohl* ([1983] 1 WLR 2) where the House held that it had no jurisdiction to entertain an appeal from refusal by the Court of Appeal to grant leave to appeal for judicial review under Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Finally, in *Richards v Richards* ([1990] Fam 194, 201) Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, had said: "What *Lane v Esdaile* decided ... was that where it is provided that an appeal shall lie by leave of a particular court or courts, neither the grant nor refusal of leave is an appealable decision."

Although those cases were concerned with appeals from refusals of leave, in all but *In re Pohl* grants and refusals of leave were referred to as though they were subject to the same considerations. It was the decision itself of the relevant court rather than the nature of the decision which determined finality.

That approach was entirely logical and his Lordship could see no justification for drawing a distinction between a decision refusing leave and one granting it.

Section 1 of the 1979 Act contemplated that judicial review of arbitration awards should take place only in limited circumstances. An appeal lay to the High Court on a point of law but only with the consent of all parties to the reference or with the leave of the court which was not to be given unless certain specified circumstances existed.

No appeal lay to the Court of Appeal unless the High Court or the Court of Appeal gave leave. The legislative intention of limited review would be rendered nugatory if appeals were to lie to the Court of Appeal and then to the House against a decision of a judge refusing or granting leave to appeal an award to the High Court and if an appeal were to lie against a decision of the Court of Appeal to refuse or grant leave to appeal from the High Court to itself under section 1(7).

Lord Bridge, Lord Brandon, Lord Griffiths and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: Ince & Co; Lawrence Graham.

## Law Report July 23 1991

## Order with penalty is weapon of last resort

*In re N (A Minor: Access)*

In family proceedings a defined access order endorsed with a penal notice putting a mother at risk of imprisonment was a weapon of last resort and it was for the judge hearing the case to decide whether, and if so how and when, to bring that weapon into play.

The Court of Appeal (Mr Justice Waite and Lord Justice Mustill) so stated on June 27 in dismissing a father's appeal from the order of Judge Griffiths in Portsmouth County Court in January 1991 denying him access to his son aged five.

MR JUSTICE WAITE said that it was a very sad case. The mother, having custody of the boy, had so worked on him that he had become entrenched in opposition to his father and would suffer serious emotional upset if forced to see him against his will.

The judge had held that although the boy's welfare was adversely affected by the denial of access, he was not going to run the risk of causing him emotional damage and reluctantly decided that it was not in the boy's best interest at present to resume contact with his father.

The judge had impeccably exercised his discretion. He could not be criticised for refraining from putting the court's powers to test by taking the extreme step of making an access order endorsed with a penal notice against the mother.

*Regina v Kidderminster District Valuer and Others, Ex parte Powell and Another*

Before Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Rousher

[Reasons July 17]

The valuation by a district valuer for the purpose of determining the maximum limit of rent allowance payable to a member of a police force pursuant to regulation 49(4)(b) of the Police Regulations (SI 1987 No 851) and the decision of a police authority and the Secretary of State for the Home Department to fix and approve that limit was susceptible to judicial review.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in giving reasons for its decision on June 6 to find as a preliminary issue that the applicants, David Jan Powell and the West Midlands Branch of the Police Federation of England and Wales, were entitled to bring an application for judicial review of a determination by the Kidderminster District Valuer of the full open market rental value of 102 Witely Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands, that figure being adopted by the West Midlands Police Authority as the criterion for determining the amount of rent allowances to be paid to police officers who provided their own accommodation.

Mr David Latham, QC and Mr Nigel Pitt for the applicants; Mr David Holgate for the district valuer, Mr J. Samuel Wiggs for the police authority; the secretary of state did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN

said that the applicants said that the district valuer made his determination on the wrong basis, in particular, that he used as his basis a rental figure for a tenancy in which the tenant was responsible for internal decoration, whereas the national agreement between the official side and the staff side of the Police Negotiating Board required him to assess the rental on the basis that the landlord was responsible for internal decoration.

The respondents contended that the application raised questions of private rather than public law and was not a fit subject for judicial review.

The respondents submitted that the parties to the national agreement had agreed a formula for the assessment of the maximum limit which was dependent on the district valuer providing a valuation service on

condition that his opinion should be conclusive. The service was one which the district valuer had volunteered to provide as an expert, acting in a private capacity and not in discharge of any statutory function.

In his Lordship's judgment, the respondents' arguments were wholly unsustainable. It was plain that the functions conferred upon the police authority and the secretary of state by regulation 49(4)(b) were governed by public law.

The fixing of the maximum limit played an essential part in the calculation of the maximum allowance payable under regulation 49(4)(a), and for that reason alone the exercise by the police authority and the secretary of state of their functions, including the involvement of the district valuer, was similarly

amenable to judicial review. The regulations provided the sole and essential statutory authority for the payment of allowances to police officers out of public funds. The district valuer played a crucial part in the calculation of those allowances. His functions as set out in the national agreement were designed to achieve the object at which regulation 49 was aimed.

The fact that that object was approached by way of the calculation of the maximum limit was neither here nor there. It was still a function which was performed within the statutory framework of the regulations and had important public elements.

Mr Justice Rousher delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker, Solicitors, Inland Revenue; Mr John M. Kibbey, Birmingham.

## Sentencing guidelines can never cover the entire field

*Regina v Mawson*

No guideline case could cover the entire field of offences which arose under a particular section of an Act. That was as much time of *R v Bowwell* ([1984] 1 WLR 1047), in which guidance was given on passing sentence in cases of causing death by reckless driving, as it was of any other guideline case.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Taylor, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and Mr Justice Mordant) so said on July 6, when allowing an appeal by Gary Mawson and reducing to

eight months a sentence of 18 months imprisonment imposed on March 26, 1991 in Maidstone Crown Court by Judge Simpson on the appellant's conviction of causing death by reckless driving. An order disqualifying him for three years was left unaffected.

MR JUSTICE IAN KENNEDY said that nothing that was said in *Bowwell* touched upon the particular danger which attended upon the driving of a 38-ton articulated lorry at a speed in excess of its permitted speed on a busy

motorway approaching a junction where there was already traffic waiting to turn off.

This was a very bad piece of reckless driving. The driver of any vehicle, let alone one such as this, who saw traffic a quarter of a mile ahead slowing down, as this appellant conceded he did, and failed to modify his speed, could not claim that it was a piece of momentary inattention.

There could be no doubt that a sentence of imprisonment was merited. However, the sentence imposed was too long and should be reduced.

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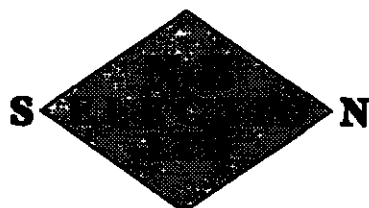
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# Restoring the fabric of the past

Young men and women are turning to the ancient craft of upholstery with enthusiasm. But the work takes time as well as talent to master. Bernardine Coverley uncovers the skills involved

A young man reaches for a power staple gun and a piece of fabric to place on the chair frame. Another student in the large, airy upholstery workshop handstitches a hessian under-cover to a padded stool. The tutor discusses the next stage of a modern design and how to put it into three dimensions. An open door into the crowded fabric room shows a multitude of colours and textures.

"There is much more to upholstery than stuffing and stitching," says Heather Gilbey, the co-ordinator of upholstery studies at the London College of Furniture. "There is frame repair and polishing, design, the history of the craft — there are different techniques for different periods — and we include a substantial slot on business skills."

All students learn about traditional and modern techniques and materials, whether they are doing a City & Guilds course or completing a module for a vocational BTEC qualification in furniture design. There are more opportunities for skilled work on the craft side, but designers need upholsterers to help to create new furniture prototypes with foam and synthetic fabrics.

Ms Gilbey points out how important upholstery is as a part of interior and furniture design. "Even Chippendale described himself as cabinet-maker and upholsterer," she says. Approximately half of all manufactured furniture is upholstered, and this

includes custom-built couches and office chairs.

The 18th and 19th centuries produced elegant and comfortable furniture that is as desirable now as it was then. The top end of the upholstery trade still uses the same meticulous craft techniques and natural fillings to produce long-lasting and resilient furniture. A chair made in this way with jute webbing, springs, horsehair filling and handstitched finishes can last for up to 50 years before needing attention.

Some people prefer to specialise in what is more exactly termed upholstery — restoring and re-covering.

Alan Kirk, a tutor at the London College of Furniture, has experience in both craft and trade upholstery, having made sofas with horsehair stuffing and hand-sewn finishes, and prototypes for a furniture designer working on the QE2 and Kennedy airport. The British, Italian and Danish lead in new furniture design.

The revival of interest in quality furnishing in the past ten years has maintained healthy opportunities in craft upholstery, and plenty of manufacturers provide work and further training to young staff. Experienced upholsterers insist that craftsmanship cannot be learnt quickly. Two professional

groups approve standards: the Association of Master Upholsterers and the recently formed Guild of Traditional Upholsterers.

Many young people want to become upholsterers, belying its image as an outdated craft. The skill will be needed as long as people have furniture. Upholstery is popular with both sexes, for whom the possibility of becoming self-employed with a small business is attractive.

*'There is much more to upholstery than stuffing and stitching. There are techniques for different periods'*

One upholsterer, Ruth Doran, says: "I enjoy working from home and I can work on a need-to basis." Miss Doran spent several years employed by a shop specialising in sofas. Now she will concentrate on re-upholstering in her own specially converted studio with good storage for fabrics and stuffing. Miss Doran's tough hands have hardened fingertips, the marks of the upholsterer and the cellist.

Music was her first choice as a career but she quickly decided this was not what she wanted to do full-time. "I wanted to be more of an artisan. I knew I was good with my hands, so I wanted something practical but flexible," she says. "The work has an obvious satisfaction and every piece is different. It is fascinating to do an outrageous baroque piece, which I then do not have to live with."

When Miss Doran started her business the main items of equipment she needed were an industrial sewing machine, a staple gun — each costing around £300 — and a large kitchen table.

It takes at least three years before anyone can call himself an upholsterer, Ernest Vidler says. He should know, because he is the fourth generation of family craftsmen at his company in north London.

Philip Stemp satisfied Mr Vidler's standards of excellence and as foreman he heads a team of 12 upholsterers at Morley Workshops. He started 12 years ago as a trainee and studied as part of his employment, taking three levels of City & Guilds examinations. The advanced course gave him a free hand to design as well as reproducing unusual styles.

"Sometimes we get very valuable pieces of furniture, which the

buyers do not realise have been 'tidied up' by restuffing them with foam," Mr Stemp says. To a company that displays the Association of Master Upholsterers this casual treatment is akin to sacrilege. Any re-upholstering should follow original work.

Although the orders include individual commissions and restoring beautiful antiques, most of the work is making new furniture for interior designers. "They want quality work we can make from their designs, or from our own traditional designs," Mr Stemp says.

Once precision is acquired the work is varied. A hand-built sofa takes a week to make. Artistic flair and a sense of drama are needed for some special commissions. Mr Stemp loves a challenge and has been asked to make some extraordinary pieces: a sofa resembling a Forties cinema, and another based on Mae West's lips, the design taken from a Salvador Dali painting.

For further details: Upholstery, A Complete Course, by David Jones, from the Guild of Master Craftsmen, 166 High Street, Lewes, £16.95. Courses, City & Guilds or BTEC, full and part-time, London College of Furniture, City of London Polytechnic, Commercial Road, London E1; Basford Hall College of Further Education, Nottingham, BA Furniture Design & Craftsmanship, Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.



In the chair: Ruth Doran at home, which doubles as a studio

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The Human Resources Dept, St George's Group, Dorset House, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, London SW17 0QT. Closing date: 12th August 1991.

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The New Initiatives Manager's major brief will be to identify potential which will ensure the quality and range of our housing stock (both inside and outside the North Kensington area) and to assist in the development of alternative funding arrangements for new projects.

In addition to a sound knowledge of the current housing market and the sources and range of funding available, the postholder should have experience of initiating housing developments and of developing feasibility studies; possess good analytical and judgemental skills and proven negotiating skills.

If you feel you can meet the challenges involved further details and application form can be obtained from: The Personnel Manager, Kensington Housing Trust, 354 Portobello Road, London W10 3XZ. Tel: 01-660 5544. Please quote job reference number: N1/2.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 6 August 1991.

Kensington Housing Trust is actively working towards Equal Opportunities.

This is a non-union environment. Previous applicants will not be considered.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

A most challenging position is offered for a General Manager, preferably with a medical background, to organise a newly established company in the field of medical services.

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Apply in writing only, enclosing CV to:  
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**PUBLIC FINANCE**

**CLEVELAND COUNTY COUNCIL**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TREASURERS DEPARTMENT

**Principal Accountant Grade P013**  
£21,936 - £23,499 pa

We are seeking a person to undertake an important role in Cleveland County's management of change resulting from Compulsory Competitive Tendering legislation. As well as an ongoing involvement in the establishment of the Contracting Units, the postholder will be required to give advice across a broad spectrum. In particular you will be expected to provide a significant amount of support for the Chief Executive and Treasurer.

The postholder will be required to lead a team dealing with the accounting work of the County Council Contracting Units. You will be expected to contribute to the development of new accounting systems to meet the needs of ISO Managers and to ensure their integration with the authority's corporate systems when appropriate.

The chosen applicant will possess proven management skills and an accounting qualification. Ideally you should have good experience in accounting for and supporting C/C/T. The provision of financial advice for the ISO Board of Management is also a feature of this post as will be the ability to assist in the creation of new units. Experience in a role which called for a similar level of corporate awareness would be an advantage but is not essential. Applications will be welcomed from members of any of the recognised accountancy bodies who have the necessary experience.

Full removal expenses, Estate Agents/legal fees will be paid in approved cases. In addition a payment for disturbance/notice-in-exit and a lodging allowance will be made where appropriate. Temporary housing accommodation may also be available within the County area. A car leasing package is available to all authorised car users.

Application forms and job descriptions can be obtained from and should be returned to the County Finance Officer, Chief Executive and Treasurer's Department, PO Box 100, Municipal Buildings, Middleborough, Cleveland, TS1 2BN. Tel: (0642) 246135, ext. 2257.

We are working towards equal opportunities for women, all ethnic groups and people with disabilities. Job sharing arrangements will be considered and all applicants who have the support of the Management Recruitment Officer will be granted an interview.

**East Cumbria Health Authority**  
**CUMBRIA AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Salary: Circa £20,500 per annum plus Performance Related Pay and Lease Car Relocation expenses where applicable

This new post based in Carlisle provides financial advice and support to the Chief Ambulance Officer and Senior Ambulance Services Managers, including responsibility for the development of financial management and information systems and business planning.

The Cumbria Ambulance Service provides a comprehensive quality emergency, urgent and patient transport service throughout the County of Cumbria. The current value of these services is some £5.8m.

An enthusiastic qualified Accountant is required with sound experience of financial management, preferably within the Public Sector, and good communication skills. Applicants with equivalent skills and experience may be considered.

For informal discussion contact: Mr J. Owen, Chief Ambulance Officer on 0228 39441 ext 3945, or Mr T. W. Thompson, Director of Finance, East Cumbria Health Authority on 0228 32141.

Application package available from: Mrs B. M. Mills on Carlisle (0228) 39441 ext 2847.

Closing date: August 2, 1991.

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# The true test ahead for Baker-Finch

By MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

JUST how good is Ian Baker-Finch? Nick Faldo, the previous winner of the title, Severiano Ballesteros and Ian Woosnam agree that the Australian is a deserving winner of the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale on Sunday. They also know that his new status will cause his fortune on and off the course to be examined.

One Open Championship guarantees a place in history but not a badge of greatness. Greg Norman, who won at Turnberry in 1986, can confirm that to his compatriot, Bill Rogers, the 1981 champion, chased the dollar, the pound and the yen and succeeded only in being bankrupt of spirit that his game disintegrated.

Tom Weiskopf, who won the Open in 1973, found the intrusions into his private life too much. He once said: "I'd be out to dinner with my family and some idiot

would come over and give me all this nonsense. I didn't know how to handle it. I went into a shell and became very negative. I guess I didn't like the price I had to pay for fame."

Like Weiskopf, Baker-Finch stands out in a crowd. He is 6ft 4in with a ramrod-straight posture and he is good-looking enough to have caused a jealous escort of a girl to punch him, break his nose and create nerve damage to his right eye, so that he now has to wear glasses.

His wife, Jennie, is supportive. "It's not Ian's fault those things happen. I'm proud of the way he handles himself. I think when I first came to Europe with him that I was insecure. But Ian did not make me feel that way; it was just me. I don't think our lifestyle will change."

What Baker-Finch has that Weiskopf lacks is his younger days is a relaxed manner. Ten years on from

Rogers, he has no need to hurry around the world to make money from the leading tournaments because endorsements will already make him a wealthy man.

If Baker-Finch has found the secret of his own success, then it might be that he has timed his emergence perfectly. This is a time to discard Faldo, Woosnam, Ballesteros or Norman, simply because they played only a supporting role at Royal Birkdale.

But it is pertinent that Baker-Finch, at the age of 30, has learned not only to swing under pressure but also to live with himself.

It is just seven months since he revealed his own frailty. He had taken 63 in the third round of the Johnnie Walker Classic at the fabled Royal Melbourne course to take a two-shot lead. Baker-Finch signed his card and said: "I will be my own biggest challenger in the last round." He took 76 and lost. Afterwards, he said: "I knew myself too well."

Baker-Finch lacked composure that day. He was adamant he did not choke, but he admitted he allowed himself to be distracted. His lack of composure manifested itself when, following several minor skirmishes with cameramen, he sounded off at one individ-



A dream fulfilled: Baker-Finch celebrating at Birkdale

ual. It had been eighteen months since he had won, the strain was telling. A week later, there was a pained look on his face again, but for a different reason.

He was to "hang" himself from a branch after 11 holes of the Coolom Classic at the aptly-named Noosa Heads. Baker-Finch was feeling under par as well as being four under par.

His pelvis locks on occasions (a legacy of wearing a specially built-up shoe because his right leg is

slightly shorter than the left). So he dangled from the tree for several minutes to reduce the pain by unloading the back muscles. He finished the round, scored 66 and his hopes were fulfilled. He won the tournament.

Now, as Open champion, he is on the threshold of joining golf's first division. His peers reckon he has the silkiest putting touch in the business. He has gained all-important length by using metal woods and graphite shafts but he has remained

among the most accurate of strikers.

It is why Crooked Stick, where the US PGA Championship will be played next month, should be to his liking. He punts at the thought of narrow fairways, whereas Woosnam, for one, has stated that he will not play another US PGA Championship if officials again set what he regards to be an unfair challenge.

Baker-Finch will get on with it, just as he did at Royal Birkdale. His mind has been finely tuned by visits to Bob Rotella, a sports psychologist, and it now works in harmony with a swing tightened by Mitchell Spearman, David Leadbetter's first lieutenant. And in Peter Bender he has a first-class caddy.

The Championship itself might not, in years to come, be remembered as a classic—compared with, say, the 1977 shoot-out between Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson—but those who were there will not forget the outward 29 that Baker-Finch scored to distance himself from his rivals in Sunday's final round. That was the play of a true champion.

## Faldo remains a firm candidate

By MITCHELL PLATT

NICK Faldo will be selected by Bernard Gallacher, the European captain, for the Ryder Cup match, at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, from September 27 to 29. Faldo has not won an automatic place, but I believe Gallacher will waste little time in asking him to help with the defence against the United States.

Faldo said: "It's all in Mr Gallacher's hands now. My schedule will not allow me to play any other tournaments in Europe before the team is picked. I must go to the States to prepare for the US PGA Championship next month."

Gallacher will need to do much soul-searching before he finalises his team following the German Open next month. There is guaranteed selection of the top nine in the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup points list, plus three places at Gallacher's discretion.

Faldo's failure to earn one of the automatic places would be compounded if Bernard Langer, presently ninth, num-

bled out of the leading nine. That would reduce Gallacher's options, as Langer, like Faldo, would almost pick himself.

Assuming Langer qualifies by right and Gallacher picks Faldo, the captain will have two places to fill.

Who are the contenders? Sandy Lyle, following his solid performance in the Open, will need to improve his game spectacularly to be included, and Ronan Rafferty has a shoulder injury, as well as lack of form, to overcome.

However, Gordon Brand Jr, Mark James and other experienced players are lurking outside the top nine. And with first prizes of £83,330 on offer at both the Dutch Open, which starts on Thursday, and the Scandinavian Open next week, it is possible for a player to move out of the pack which is why Barry Lane, who played consistently in the Open, Philip Walton, Howard Clark and Christy O'Connor have not given up hope.

### RYDER CUP STANDINGS

EUROPE: 1, S Ballesteros (Sp), 241.074; 2, S Richardson (Eng), 215.591; 3, I Woosnam (Wales), 213.071; 4, C Montgomerie (Scott), 175.015; 5, E Darcy (Ire), 167.703; 6, J M Chappell (Sp), 157.033; 7, S Langer (Ger), 153.888; 8, D Fehery (Fra), 145.419; 9, B Langer (Ger), 143.103; 10, N Faldo (Eng), 138.542; 11, G Bickel (Ger), 138.542; 12, D Gilford (Eng), 115.805; 13, M McLean (Eng), 97.263; 14, J Rivera (Sp), 86.748; 15, M Lanner (Sp), 84.836; 16, M Martin (Sp), 82.338.	UNITED STATES: 1, F Couples, 72.215; 2, P Stewart, 546.3; 3, L Wadkins, 525.4; 4, H Irwin, 517.5; 5, P Azinger, 501.6; 6, C Fawcett, 455.7; 7, M O'Meara, 455.1; 8, D Cusack (Ire), 407.1; 9, T Simpson, 391.1; 10, T Ger, 357.1; 11, S Pate, 353.1; 12, G Morgan, 315.1; 13, C Beck, 254.1; 14, L Love II, 291.1; 15, M Brooks, 290.1; 16, S Hoch, 278.1; 17, R Tway, 275.1; 18, J Maza, 244.1; 19, C Stadler, 237.1.
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### WORLD STUDENT GAMES

## Friendly giant reveals in era of 19-footers

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FOR a decade the shot has stirred little interest among the British public. When PC Capes departed there was no one to take over his bat. Until, perhaps, Matt Simson.

When, on Sunday, Simson became Britain's first athletics medal winner of the World Student Games in Sheffield, it confirmed his ability to perform well on the championship stage. He has a share in the record for the number of AAA under-20 titles won —

seven, three indoors and four out — and possesses three English Schools championship gold medals.

Now, aged 21, he has made his biggest breakthrough: at the start of the season his best was 18.52 metres. This season he has nine putts of 19 metres to his credit. The ninth one, his 19.07 metres in the Don Valley Stadium, gave him the silver behind Aleksandr Klimenko, of the Soviet Union. But a Soviet, note,

putting only 19.35 metres. Two years ago, 19 metres was inconsequential in world terms. However, stricter drugs controls, including the suspension of Randy Barnes, the world record holder, for a positive test, have lowered standards dramatically.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation A standard for taking part in the world championships next month, set some while back, is 19.85 metres. Now, 19.50 metres could be enough to reach the final.

Simson is a Roald Dahl figure. The Big Friendly Giant, rather like his team captain here, Steve Backley. He believes that records for shot should be started from scratch, as they were in the javelin five years ago. He suggests reducing the weight from 7.26 kilograms to seven.

Simson owes his improvement to having two 19 metres putters to train with at the University of Florida where he has been a student since January. "My technique is no different, I am just that much stronger," he said.

Stephen Gookley's bronze medal in the 100 metres owed everything to his start. His reaction time was measured at 0.117sec, faster than Linford Christie has managed and not noticeably slower than that which Ben Johnson was being timed at before he was suspended for drug-taking.

Keri Maddox's bronze in the 100 metres hurdles was achieved with 13.32sec, a personal best and only 0.02sec outside the British record.

championships in Perth during the winter. In Athens, he will attack that record.

That, though, was the host nation's only medal in a programme dominated by the United States and China.

While the British men's hockey team rested before today's semi-finals, the remaining places were resolved yesterday. Spain ended its reign as champion by reaching the last four, and promoted themselves, with a 4-1 victory, Germany had already qualified.

Korea's 6-0 victory over the Germans earned them automatic places alongside Spain, the Netherlands and China, in the women's semi-finals. Zimbabwe's 16-0 defeat by Canada left them goalless, pointless and nursing a goal difference of minus 88 from five group matches. Britain, who completed their qualifying matches on Sunday, finished a place above.

## Wilson ends the wait with swimming gold

By MARK HERBERT

SWIMMERS have habitually provided Britain's first gold medal in past World Student Games. At Sheffield the wait lasted more than a week, until the final day of the programme, but Ian Wilson's victory in the men's 1,500 metres freestyle on Sunday maintained the tradition.

Wilson was expected to win, but surprised himself with time, 15m 15.30sec, which was his second fastest. He had hardly prepared, since he is aiming to peak at the European championships in Athens next month, and had not even bothered to shave down.

"I wanted to use this race to give me some guidelines," he said. "I'm very happy with the way things went."

Wilson returned to Sunderland yesterday to begin training in earnest. His time within four seconds of the national record, which he set when he finished fourth in the world

championships in Perth during the winter. In Athens, he will attack that record.

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### Ailing American baffles critics by dropping Tour de France field



Hands-off winner: Lietti gives his sponsor third day of Tour publicity at Gap

## LeMond steals pre-Alps show

GAP (Agencies) — Greg LeMond stole a march on his rivals in the Tour de France yesterday when many were speculating he was about to retire. On the approach to Gap, in the foothills of the Alps, after riding 120 miles from Aix in around 40 C, the American suddenly broke away on his own. In an explosion of effort, he opened a gap on the bunch which grew to nearly half a minute.

An Italian, Marco Lietti, of the same team, Ariostes, that had supplied the previous three days' winners, got into LeMond's slipstream and the pair joined forces until it was time to decide the outcome.

LeMond put his head down but Lietti came off his wheel to cross the line first and collect the 15,000 francs.

For LeMond, the reward was the 26 seconds he pulled back on the overall positions. He also showed he had still left in his legs. Earlier in the day, his team director, Roger Legay, had doubted whether the American would be able to tackle the first Alpine stage today, which concludes with a grueling 22.5 hairpin climb up to L'Alpe d'Huez.

"He hasn't recuperated the way he should have after Friday's tough mountain stage," Legay told French television. "We hope he will recover but if he doesn't, I can't see him taking part in Tuesday's stage."

However, last night LeMond said he had made his break not to win at Gap but to win back time. "I told myself that if I improve in the coming days, this time could help me win the Tour."

hope so." Before Monday's start, LeMond remained in seclusion in his team's trailer, talking with his family and avoiding the hordes of reporters and fans outside. Legay confirmed that LeMond was feeling feverish and had swollen feet.

Laurent Fignon, a former Tour winner and lying sixth, a place behind LeMond, dismissed the American's break as irrelevant. He also criticised the Tour leader, Miguel Indurain, for not joining an earlier nine-man breakaway up the 887-metre Côte de St-André, which Fignon, Gianni Bugno and Claudio Chiappucci were the instigators.

"He wasn't there when he was needed," Fignon said. "Our breakaway failed but it might have worked if Charly (Mottet) had been with us."

Meanwhile, about 200,000 cycling enthusiasts, most of them Dutch, were already gathering yesterday on the mountain side of L'Alpe d'Huez, to watch the 13.8 kilometre climb with an average gradient of 8.2 per cent. The race's most spectacular finish had turned orange with the banners draping the Dutch visitors' cars, tents and caravans. Their favourite, Gert-Jan Theunisse, said he had ridden the mountain 50 times this year already.

RESULT: Stages: 1st (Aix to Gap, 210km): 1, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 2, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 3, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 4, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 5, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 6, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 7, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 8, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 9, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 10, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 11, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 12, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 13, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 14, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 15, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 16, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 17, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 18, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 19, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 20, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 21, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 22, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 23, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 24, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 25, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 26, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 27, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 28, G LeMond (USA), 4h 15m 15.30s; 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